FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 NOVEMBER 1984

Lebanon

Israeli Air Raid — Israeli Air Force planes attacked DFLP "terrorist" bases near Qabb Ilyas in the northern Al-Biqa' valley on 27 November, scoring "good" hits on their targets, Jerusalem radio announced. Syrian and Israeli forces in the valley exchanged heavy artillery fire in the wake of the attack, Radio Free Lebanon reported. The Israeli air raid followed Jerusalem radio's announcement the previous day that two Katyusha rockets had been fired from southern Lebanon into the Galilee panhandle.

Al-Naqurah Talks — "No progress" was made at the Israeli-Lebanesemilitary talks in Al-Naqurah on 26 November and the Israeli side persisted in demanding a discussion of "certain matters" on which there has been no decision, Beirut radio reported. For their part, the Lebanese proposed a two-tier system of security arrangements providing for intensive measures in the immediate vicinity of the border and less intensive arrangements in other parts of the south. Israel has not yet responded to these proposals, which constitute a change in the negotiations, according to IDF radio.

Earlier, in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, the head of the Israeli delegation said he told the Lebanese side that the Israelis have "had enough" of the "old record" which the Lebanese are repeating at each session and that no progress will be made while the latter continue "holding talks through the radio." The Israeli official's comments came after the Lebanese delegation leader had accused the Israelis of impeding the talks in a statement reported by Beirut radio. Israel is linking its withdrawal to "impossible" security arrangements, he said, and it is only paying lipservice to Lebanese sovereignty because it seeks to remain in Lebanon by proxy, through armed organizations under its orders, and wants to return to Lebanon whenever it likes.

Amal Support for Security Measures — Minister of State for Southern Affairs and Reconstruction Nabih Birri reaffirmed his full support for the new security measures in Beirut and declared that Amal movement militia have withdrawn from the combat lines in the capital, handing over all security duties to the Army and the Internal Security Forces, Beirut radio reported.

PNC Session

In speeches at the session in Amman, PNC members condemned Syrian and Libyan interference in the PLO, stressed the need to strengthen Jordanian-Palestinian relations, and emphasized that isolating Egypt is against the interests of the Arab nation, according to Amman radio. Meanwhile, the PNC sent cables to PFLP-General Command leader Ahmad Jibril and six other opponents of the PLO leadership informing them that steps are under way to expel them from the PNC. Responding to one PNC member's questions about the tight security measures at the session, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat claimed that an Arab leader has prepared a warplane to attack the building where the PNC is meeting, KUNA reported.

As for the PLO's financial affairs, *AL-DUSTUR* published the report submitted to the PNC on 24 November by Palestinian National Fund Chairman Hanna Nasir. The report noted that Saudi Arabia is the only Arab state to have paid all its financial commitments to the PLO and it also criticized PLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Arafat for violating National Fund regulations by depositing the Saudi contributions in the PLO's military administration account instead of handing them over to the national fund.

Iraqi-U.S. Relations

Iraq and the United States announced the resumption of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level in a joint declaration after agreement was reached at a meeting between Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and President Ronald Reagan, INA reported. Later, according to INA, 'Aziz said his talks with the President were cordial and frank. In remarks cited by KUNA, a "senior American official" emphasized that the resumption of diplomatic relations spells no change in U.S. neutrality toward the Gulf conflict nor in the U.S. arms supply policy.

As for reaction to the Iraqi-U.S. announcement, the development was welcomed by "well-placed sources in Jerusalem" who see closer Arab alignment with Washington as "basically a favorable development," according to *THE JERUSALEM POST*. On the other hand, Damascus radio said the step falls within Iraq's role of "serving the hostile U.S. interests in the region."

Syria

Mitterrand Visit — French President Francois Mitterrand arrived in Damascus and began talks with President Hafiz al-Asad on international issues, according to Damascus radio and television. Vice President Rif'at al-Asad attended the subsequent banquet in Mitterrand's honor, Radio Monte Carlo reported, and although monitored Syrian media have not mentioned Rif'at's return to Syria, Damascus radio noted that "the vice presidents" were among the Syrian officials at the banquet.

In his speech at the banquet, broadcast by Damascus television, President al-Asad stressed Syria's desire for a "just peace" in the Middle East and he stressed that France can assist in this by helping to achieve a formula for an international conference. In reply, Mitterrand expressed support for an international conference under the aegis of the United Nations and he noted that Europe could play a role in organizing such a conference, according to Paris radio. He emphasized Syria's "decisive" role in achieving peace, asserting that "nothing can really be accomplished" in this regard without Syria's participation. Mitterrand also called for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon without demanding a quid pro quo from the Syrians, the radio noted.

Jabir Visit — Following his recent visit to the USSR and the CSSR, Libyan Armed Forces Commander in Chief Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir arrived in Damascus where he was received by Defense Minister Mustafa Talas, according to Damascus television.

New Iranian Deputy Premier

Tahmasb Mazaheri was appointed deputy prime minister and supervisor of the Foundation of the Oppressed, replacing Mehdi Tabataba'i in the latter position, according to a government decree cited by Tehran Radio.

Gulf Conflict

Iran's President 'Ali Khamene'i, in a speech to military personnel reported by IRNA, assured the Gulf states that Iran does not intend to wage wars with any of them nor to export the Islamic revolution by force. However, he reaffirmed that in the war with Iraq there will be no alternative to "extermination" of the Baghdad regime.

As for the POW issue, Iran's Red Crescent society director sent a message to the director of the International Committee for the Red Cross "strongly protesting" the committee's stance on Baghdad's treatment of Iranian POW's and holding the ICRC responsible for their safety, IRNA reported. Meanwhile, the Iraqi Embassy in Paris issued a statement listing massacres and other abuses alleged to have been perpetrated by Iran on Iraqi POW's since 1981, according to AFP.

Sudan

The Council of Ministers has been abolished and a Presidential Council set up, President Jaf'ar Numayri announced to the People's Assembly in a statement reported by Omdurman radio. This step will expand consultation, or "shura," he explained, and thus guarantee participation of central and regional government organs and reinforce national unity.

Pakistan-DRA

Pakistan charged that Afghan planes raided Chitral District on 26 November, injuring one civilian, Karachi radio reported.

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'Arafat Comments at PNC Meeting Reported

Warns of Air Strike

LD261815 Kuwait KUNA in English 1714 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Amman, Nov 26 (KUNA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat Monday disclosed that an Arab leader whom he did not name was preparing a warplane to strike the building hosting meetings of the PNC currently in progress in Amman. 'Arafat was commenting on remarks by a PNC member on the tight security measures adopted to protect the council and asked the member to cancel his statement without going into further details.

Appeals to European Parliamentarians

AU261531 Rome ANSA in English 1521 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] (ANSA) Amman, November 26 — Yasir 'Arafat, the beleaguered chairman of the PLO, today appealed to European parliamentarians observing the PNC underway in Amman, to give him a hand "at a very difficult time". Among those on the European delegation received by 'Arafat today were two Italian MPs, Giuliano Silvestri (a Christian Democrat) and Giovanni Pellicani (a Communist).

The PLO chief appeared unusually tired and concerned. "Give us a hand because this is a very hard time," he told the parliamentarians. "We have military, political and economic problems and we are not only forced to test ourselves against our enemies but also against our brothers," he said. Turning to Silvestri (who is also president of the Italo-Palestinian Association) and Pellicani, 'Arafat said that he had first hand experience of Italy's solidarity with the Palestinian people on various occasions. He specifically mentioned in this context how the Italian Navy had made itself available for the evacuation of his wounded fighters from Tripoli, Lebanon, and how he himself was warmly received in Rome by Italian head of state Sandro Pertini.

Criticizes Arab 'Interference'

LD261649 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1100 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Amman, November 26 (TANJUG) — PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat considers the unity of the Palestinian people and the ensuring of their independent decisionmaking, without Arab interference and intervention, to be of the utmost importance at this moment. At the same time, he stressed that Palestinians are in favor of seeking a just and comprehensive solution to their problem at an international conference with the participation of all interested forces under UN auspices. The above stands were set out by 'Arafat in an interview to Yugoslav press, radio, and television special correspondents in Amman where the 17th session of the PNC is underway.

'Arafat stressed that current dissension within the PLO leadership does not significantly effect the prospects of the Palestinian struggle. He said the dissensions were neither new nor unknown, particularly in the revolution which was still in progress. He stressed that, not only at present, the absolute unity of the Palestinian people was vital.

The very decision to hold the session was the first strong proof of the full freedom of Palestinain decisionmaking. The session itself totally reflected political unity, 'Arafat said in answer to the question of whether he considered that the right to independent decisionmaking would be confirmed at the 17th session of the Paletinian parliament-in-exile.

Regarding the current situation within the PLO, 'Arafat set out that the Palestine "rejection front" was not the true representative of the Palestinian people. He underlined that the current situation was not the result of differences between the Palestinian people but of Arab intervention and interference in Palestinian decisionmaking.

'Arafat recalled his fighters under siege at Tripoli last year and the fact that some Arab countries had not permitted Palestinian delegates to attend the session in Amman.

To a newsman's question as to whether there are chances in the near future of PLO's nonetheless establishing better relations with Syria, 'Arafat answered: "There is no doubt about that. I have already accepted mediation proposals, including Yugoslavia's invitation..." 'Arafat observed that for the time being there was no favorable answer from Damascus and reminded that "such things have already happened (1976, 1979) and yet in the end we reached a compromise".

'Arafat indicated that the PLO in the past few months had very favorable and successful discussions with King Husayn of Jordan. He said that the Jordanian sovereign "spoke very openly and offered a fresh initiative" at the opening of the Palestinian conference in Amman. "Our national council will start considering this initiative openly and without prejudice," said 'Arafat in agreeing with the fact that "Jordan puts up its initiative on UN Security Council Resolution 242". He observed that "we Palestinians are brought under obligation to work from the stand accepted by Arab countries at their summit in Fes". 'Arafat emphasized: "Hence, we have accepted the idea of a thorough solution through an international conference in which all the parties concerned would participate, including the two super powers, and this conference would be held under the UN and Security Council flag."

As for the Palestinian stand, to be used as the basis for calling an international conference, 'Arafat said that this stand presumes "all ithe internationally recognized resolutions that pertain to the Palestinian question..."

On the occasion the Palestinian leader recalled also that President Tito as early as 1974 warned about the "possible division of the whole region," and what he said then "is clearly being confirmed by what is going on in Lebanon today."

PLO To Expand Dialogue With Egypt, Jordan, Syria

GF261942 Doha QNA in Arabic 1920 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Amman, 26 Nov (QNA) — QNA has learned that the PNC will decide in its session currently being held in the Jordanian capital to delegate the PLO Executive Committee to expand a dialogue with Egypt, Jordan, and Syria for the purpose of

consolidating the PLO's relations with the Arab confrontation countries.

Regarding Egypt, QNA has learned that it is most likely that efforts will be made to elevate the degree of Fatah's representation in Egypt to the ambassadorial level and to support Fatah's office with prominent Palestinian personalities. The PLO will adopt a call for a comprehensive Arab position aimed at restoring full diplomatic relations with Egypt.

PFLP Will Not Join Substitute Organization

JN251131 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Nov 84 p 1

[By Lamis K. Andoni, *JORDAN TIMES* staff reporter]

[Text] Amman — The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) will not join any substitute organization for the PLO and will strive for restoring the unity of the Palestinian movement, a senior PFLP official said Saturday. Bassam Abu Sharif, the PFLP spokesman, told the *JORDAN TIMES* in telephone interview Saturday that the PFLP will "deal with all parties which accept to join in a comprehensive dialogue to reunify the PLO." Mr Abu Sharif's statement apparently implied that the PFLP will not deal with Syrian-backed PLO factions which have so far refused to join in a comprehensive dialogue and are believed to be preparing for another PNC in Damascus.

The PFLP has declined to attend the 17th PNC session in Amman and describes the PLO Executive Committee's decision to hold the PNC in Amman as "a unilateral decision." In Mr Abu Sharif's view the leadership of Fatah, the mainstream Palestinian faction, had "committed a mistake by holding the PNC." "They should not have rushed to convene the PNC instead of giving more time for other factions to participate," he said.

In the political report, which was presented at the PNC session Saturday, head of the PLO's Political Department, Faruq Qaddumi, blamed the PFLP, which linked its participation in the PNC to that of the Syrian-backed factions, for the failure of efforts to convene the PNC in Algiers. But Mr Abu Sharif said that if Fatah delayed the convening of the session "the PNC could have been more representative."

Leader of the PFLP, Dr George Habash, returned from Moscow late Friday after talks with Soviet officials concerning differences among Palestinian factions on holding the PNC. A dispatch from the ASSOCIATED PRESS from Moscow said that the wording of the statement which announced the meeting between Dr Habash and other leaders of three independent factions with Soviet officials suggested disagreement. But Mr Abu Sharif claimed that the "Soviet Union had expressed support for the Democratic Alliance stance over the PNC." The PFLP official reiterated his group's rejection of UN Resolution 242. He also attacked the ongoing Al-Naqurah talks between Israel and Lebanon. Syria has supported the Lebanese Israeli talks on South Lebanon but Mr Abu Sharif said that "the PFLP strongly opposes the Al-Naqurah talks." This was taken as an indication of the PFLP's independence from Syrian policies.

Meanwhile, groups opposed the convening of the PNC session continued their verbal attacks, through Syrian television and radio.In a lengthy interview broadcast on Syrian television, Khalid al-Fahum, the former PNC speaker who was replaced by Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih at Friday's PNC session, claimed that he was the "legitimate" speaker of the council. Mr al-Fahum contended that 168 members of the PNC are not attending the ongoing PNC sessions in Amman and therefore the council lacked a quorum.

Palestinian Group Separates From PFLP

JN261719 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] 'Abd al-Rahim Jabir, official in charge of the Heroes of the Return Organization [Munazzamat Abtal al-'Awdah], has announced the separation of his organization from the Revenge Youth Organization [Munazzamat Shabah al-Tha'r]. The two organizations formed the PFLP. In a speech at the PNC meeting last night, Jabir said that the Heroes of the Return Organization has decided to work as an independent group, abiding by the Palestinian legitimacy as representated by the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Palestinian Leaders in Damascus Comment on PNC

JN240933 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 24 Nov 84

[Text] Last night Syrian television interviewed a number of PNC members who affirmed that the current PNC session in Amman is illegitimate because of the flagrant forging operations that haveoccurred at the session. Samih Abu Kuwayk [Qadri] said that in his speech King Husayn insulted the PLO. He noted that Yasir 'Arafat is a forger and did not have quorum for the PNC session. Hence, King Husayn would be more capable of becoming the representative of the Palestinian people. [sentence as heard] Abu Kuwayk added that Husayn exploited his speech before the council and paid homage to King 'Abdallah, who sold out Lod, Ramallah, the Triangle, and the Galilee. He said that he wanted King 'Abdallah to be considered a martyr in one of the PNC sessions.

Abu Kuwayk said the council has formed a Palestinian-Jordanian team for negotiations on the basis of Camp David and Resolution 242. He said that, despite the forging of votes, they managed to scrape together a quorum by only seven votes. He added that our lists confirm this forgery.

Abu Kuwayk said the Palestinian masses, who are aware of the forgery, will discover where 'Arafat wants the ship of the revolution to cast anchor. The PLO will eventually reveal that 'Arafat decided to sell the PLO and the Palestinian cause to imperialism, to the U.S. project, and to King Husayn.

Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, said recent events proved to our Palestinian masses inside and outside Palestinian territory the facts of the Amman theatrical, in which the parties of the Husayn-'Arafat-Mubarak axis took part. Dr Ghawshah said that from the politi-

cal viewpoint, the great threat to the PLO and Palestinian cause appeared when King Husayn revealed an initiative aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause by proposing to the Palestinian people that they accept Resolution No 242, which deals with our people's cause as an issue of refugees and not an issue of people looking forward to their legitimate rights in Palestine. He added that the king also declared his attempt to impose capitulation on the Palestinian people through his demand for recognizing, negotiating, and making peace with the enemy under the slogan of territory in exchange for peace.

Dr Ghawshah said: King Husayn revealed his real intentions when he presented the Palestinian-Jordanian formula through which he wanted to connect the Palestinian people with his conduct and confiscate the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He pointed out that King Husayn's plot would not have been presented in this clear manner without the connivance of the deviationist and capitulationist line and without the 'Arafatist council being held in the Jordanian regime's lap.

Ghawshah said that in his speech 'Arafat declared his liquidationist stand toward the Palestinian cause when he spoke about his alliance with Mubarak and Husayn, his significant ties with them, and his visit to the Camp David regime, and also when he spoke about his excellent relations with the Jordanian regime. He announced his complete merger with the Husayn-Mubarak axis, an axis of surrender and liquidation.

PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril said 'Arafat replaced more than 50 original PNC members with new members before holding the meeting to discuss the quorum. This is counter to PNC rules. He said King Husayn was very clear when he asked the PNC to accept his new initiative based on Resolution 242, which is rejected by our revolution because it denies Palestinian rights. Jibril said that the king insulted all those present when he held the Palestinians responsible for the September 1970 massacres by claiming that the Palestinians clashed with Jordanians and that the Jordanian regime was forced to act in self-defense.

LE MONDE Reports Background to PNC Meeting
PM241442 Paris LE MONDE in French 23 Nov 84 pp 1,2

[Eric Rouleau dispatch: "PLO Threatened With Collapse"]

[Text] Amman — "King Husayn presided over the PLO's birth 20 years ago, and it is he who will deliver the fedayeen federation's funeral oration this evening." This remark, which many Palestinians will probably think is in bad taste, was circulating among Arab journalists on the morning of Thursday, 22 November, just a few hours before the start of the 17th session of the PNC, the resistance's "parliament." The Hashemite king — who inaugurated the PLO in May 1964 — was to deliver a speech on Thursday evening which the Jordanian press described as "very important."

The PNC has probably never met in such desperate conditions. The fierce polemics, divisions, and conflicts and the boycott of the session by seven fedayeen organizations whose headquarters are in Damascus might, according to a widespread view, lead to a permanent split in the PLO — the first in its history. Some senior cadres in Fatah, the majority organization, are making no secret of their satisfaction. "At least things would be clear," they say, "and we could launch resolutely into a peace process without the ambiguous statements imposed on us by the resistance's extremist pro-Syrian wing."

It is ironical that it is here in Amman, where there was fierce fighting between the Jordanian Royal Army and the fedayeen in September 1970, that the latter are now finding hospitality and comfort in their time of trouble. Most PNC members had not set foot in Amman for 14 years: Many of them experienced the rigors of Jordanian prisons; and some, sentenced to death, had succeeded in fleeing. Many of them were obviously moved on their arrival at the airport.

No Arab capital — except perhaps Baghdad — was willing to receive them a few weeks ago for fear of angering Syria. The deadlock seemed so complete that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat contemplated at one point convening his "parliament" on a ship at sea.

There are other unusual sights for the obervers. King Husayn's special units, the fierce Bedouins, who, 14 years ago, were shooting fedayeen on sight, are now being deployed in force to protect them against their enemies, more probably Arabs than Israelis.The fear of attacks prompted the Jordanian authorities to take spectacular security measures. The King's "Red Berets," machine guns in hand, are guarding the airport, where they are making long and systematic searches of the hundreds of observers and journalists.

The number and quality of the foreign delegations is not yet known. But the biggest is certainly the delegation from Cairo: More than 150 prominent Egyptians, from the government and opposition, party leaders, deputies, and personal representatives of President Mubarak were among the first to be received by Yasir 'Arafat, who gave them a particularly warm welcome. This is an additional sign of Egypt's gradual return to the Arab fold, despite the separate peace it signed with Israel. Although other fraternal countries have refrained from sending representatives, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi is here to bear witness to the legitimacy of the PLO meeting chaired by Yasir 'Arafat.

The Soviets' Absence

The noticeable absence of a Soviet delegation is prompting different commentaries and interpretations. The Kremlin told Yasir 'Arafat it regarded the PNC meeting as "inopportune" and even dangerous for "the unity of the Palestinian resistance." PFLP Secretary General Georges Habash and DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah, who were virtually summoned to Moscow, were told that the Soviet Union also disapproves of the dissidents convening a parallel meeting which would lead to the creation of a "second PLO."

Mr 'Arafat, who is in no way upset by the Soviet boycott, told his Egyptian guests in confidence on Wednesday evening: "It is natural for the USSR to spare Damascus' feelings. But I am

confident, because although the Russians are the Syrians' allies, they are above all our friends, and this is what counts."

Officially, nothing is yet known about the assembly's agenda, or the Fatah leadership's intentions, other than its search for legitimacy in face of opposition from their adversaries. They have already scored a major point, since, according to them, a quorum has easily been achieved. More than two-thirds of the PNC's members are present, and they therefore have the power to take decisions binding on the whole movement. Mr 'Arafat is expressing satisfaction in private at the fact that many participants are members of the PFLP and DFLP although they are attending the meeting in their capacity as members of professional and socio-cultural associations.

According to reports reaching Amman, Mr Hawatimah is leaning toward a rapid reconciliation with Fatah, whereas Mr George Habash, whose organization is divided on this subject, maintains his intransigence. Moreover, the Palestinian Communist Party, which is one of the main dissident groups, has adopted an attitude close to that of Mr Hawatimah.

Expel the Pro-Syrians?

Mr 'Arafat's friends are also divided between advocates and opponents of a split. The latter maintain that every effort must be made to avoid an irreparable step. The PLO chairman seems to be vacillating between the two positions, waiting for the "deputies" to give their verdict. But in private he is apparently making "tough statements. "We must expel from the PLO the four pro-Syrian organizations who took up arms against the loyalists in Tripoli last year," he said on Wednesday evening. These are essentially Fatah rebels led by Colonel Abu Musa, Al-Sa'iqah, and the PFLP-General Command led by Ahmad Jibril.

Mr 'Arafat also said that the "hour of reckoning" has come and that the PNC should make a critical analysis of "all the mistakes made in the past few years," especially since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982, and "impose the necessary penalties." It will be remembered that this is one of the dissident organizations' main demands, except that they are demanding a "self-criticism" leading to the ousting of the PLO chairman.

It remains to be seen whether the PNC will be asked to step up the "open approach" to a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Fatah leadership is unanimous in wanting this ultimately while realizing that a bold diplomatic initiative will merely consummate the split with the PLO's inflexible wing. Mr 'Arafat has not yet given his verdict but, probably in an attempt to reassure the dissidents, he made ambiguous statements to his visitors on Wednesday evening: "Those who accuse me of wanting to sign a peace treaty at any cost are mistaken; but what do my intentions matter since the Israelis reject any kind of negotiations or peaceful settlement with the PLO? Between ourselves, I would not have acted any differently, in view of the regional and international balance of forces...."

Qaddumi Delivers PNC Political Report

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["Text" of PLO "Political Report" read by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, at 17th PNC session in Amman on 24 November — recorded]

[Text] Brothers and sisters: Allow me at the beginning of this report to express our profound thanks to fraternal Jordan — king, government, and people — for hosting the 17th session of our National Council and for the kind reception and hospitality accorded us. There is nothing unusual about this. After all, here in Amman we are among our own kinfolk and people — sons of the one family who, in addition to the bonds of genuine Arabism, are united by common destiny and aspirations for saving the occupied homeland and liberating our kinfolk who are only a few kilometers from here. From the hills of Amman we address our kinfolk in Jerusalem and affirm to them that we still adhere to the pledge until we meet with them while the banners of victory fly over all our hills in both banks.

Brothers and sisters, the 17th PNC session is meeting more than 2 years after our departure from Beirut, where we and the Israeli enemy engaged in grueling battles following the invasion of Lebanon. During these battles the Palestinian revolution proved its ability in confrontation and steadfastness in the longest Arab-Israeli war. As you know, this war left its mark on the Israeli community, causing a violent tremor in that society, creating a crack and split in it. Its prime minister, Menahem Begin. fell and resigned from political life. Israel's human and material losses were heavy. Israeli reaction was first manifested in tumultuous demonstrations which called for the downfall of Begin and Sharon, cessation of the war, and withdrawal from Lebanon. It was a unique manifestation unprecedented in any of the previous wars between the Arabs and Israel.

By its invasion of Lebanon, Israel wanted to make world opinion believe it was carrying a punitive campaign against the Palestinian fedayeen in what it called the "Peace for Galilee" operation. But Israel's real aim was to break the PLO's backbone and to destroy its military power and political capabilities so that in the end it could uproot it from Lebanon.

Israel failed to achieve its military and political objectives. Israel has proved once again it is far removed from peace and is determined to carry out its aggressive, expansionist policy despite signing the Camp David accords and removing Egypt temporarily from the Arab-Israeli conflict arena. Israel and the United States made Western public opinion imagine that peace would prevail over this part of the world after these accords. But the actual truth is that Israel found in the Camp David accords and in Egypt's isolation a golden opportunity to strike easily at the other Arab countries one after the other.

Nevertheless, Israel stood incapacitated and perplexed before the heroic resistance of the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces. Following its involvement in the Lebanon war, Israel became confused on how to get out of the dilemma despite its occupation of the Lebanese capital, Beirut. The national Lebanese and Palestinian resistance continued despite the huge Israeli occupation

forces. Israel sought the help of U.S. and Multinational Forces to try to prevent the Lebanese resistance's control of Beirut. As you know, however, this situation did not last long. The national Lebanese resistance dealt crushing blows to the U.S. Marines, forcing them and the Multinational Forces to immediately pull out of Beirut.

Defeated, the Israeli forces withdrew to the southern areas. Thus, we realize that the first objective of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon was to make the Palestinian forces leave the southern Lebanese areas in order to control these areas and to exploit Lebanese waters, and to establish a buffer zone over which Israel would impose its control or place it under its protection through the presence of loyal forces, such as the forces of agent Antoine Lahd.

Brothers, it is true that we left Lebanon and Beirut and our forces were deployed in several Arab countries. This will not affect our morale or reduce our influence so long as we continue to exist as armed forces in other areas in Lebanon. Regrettably, the dissidence conspiracy took place to complete the schemes for definitely evicting the Palestinian resistance from Lebanon that Israel had started.

Dissidence Within Fatah

On 10 May 1983, a small group of Fatah members, incited and supported by known Arab parties, announced a military rebellion and its dissidence from Fatah and its command. This dissident movement continued to spread in the Al-Biqa' area and Damascus, resorting to internecine fighting as a way to announce itself, and occupy offices and institutions in Damascus. Fatah issued instructions to all cadres not to use weapons in any way whatsoever. Fatah contacted the Syrian command in an attempt to halt this internecine fighting and stop the shedding of Palestinian blood. However, there were no results. The reply was that this dispute is an internal dispute within Fatah and the PLO, and can be solved only through agreement among the disputing parties. We resorted to the Palestinian organizations and the PLO Executive Committee in an attempt to stop this shedding of blood which threatened all the institutions of the Palestinian revolution. The PLO Executive Committee members and committees stemming from the various Palestinian resistance factions exerted strenuous efforts to halt the fighting and resort to calm dialogue for the settlement of this dispute. Fatah also exerted many efforts to hold a dialogue with this dissident faction. This faction rejected dialogue or imposed harsh conditions which no logical person could accept with the sole purpose of disssolving Fatah, its command and its institutions, and reorganizing it anew. Faced with these serious developments, the sincere resistance factions and the Fatah command continued to send one mediator after an other in order to seek a successful solution that would satisfy everyone, but the scheme's objective was to liquidate Fatah, and subsequently contain the PLO. Fighting spread to other areas, and expanded in the Al-Biqa' area. When the fighting failed to achieve its purpose there, the Fatah forces were asked to leave Al-Biqa' for the north. This really took place to prevent more confrontations. Before this, the Syrian authorities had asked Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to leave Damascus immediately.

Most Fatah forces gathered in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli and its suburbs. A few weeks later, armed forces backed by other Arab forces attacked the Palestinian revolution forces in the Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps. Grueling battles took place in which hundreds of Palestinian martyrs fell and the Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps were destroyed. The inhabitants of these two camps were scattered. The city of Tripoli itself also came under heavy artillery shelling, the likes of which only Beirut witnessed when that city came under attack by Israeli gunboats, planes, and artillery. The battle ended with our forces' departure from Tripoli, forces later redeployed in distant Arab countries.

As you know, the Palestinian forces took part in the mountain war and in the fighting in Bhamdun and Suq al-Gharb at the request of the Lebanese [national] forces. They would have reached the Beirut approaches had they not been requested to pull back. Afterward, the Fatah forces were asked to withdraw to the Tripoli area.

The question we must ask is: Why this fighting? Why was Fatah chosen as target of the plot? As you know, Fatah is the biggest Palestinian organization. It is the one that fired the first shot in 1965. Fatah is the backbone of the Palestinian resistance. If this backbone is broken, the PLO would collapse and would be easy to control and contain. It would also stop being a heavy burden on the entire region, as some people claim, and it would then be easy to proceed with the political settlement desired by Israel and the United States. Striking at Fatah means striking at the Palestinian resistance and destroying its political prestige. Thus, the demand for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state would disappear and the capitulation solution would be imposed on the Arab region. It is strange indeed that Arab quarters are carrying out this plan wittingly or unwittingly. Perhaps, one would ask: Is this all? We say: No, the aim is to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict in the absence of the Palestinian side and to divide Lebanon into independent cantons or sectarian states which Israel would easily control along with Lebanon's resources.

The Fatah dissident movement was a black spot on the record of the Palestinian resistance. We knew that the imposed Palestinian infighting would lead to very bad results. For years, the Palestinian revolution has succeeded in settling disputes between Palestinian resistance groups by peaceful means, which is why the PLO has become a strong national front. Therefore, attempts had to be made by others to weaken the PLO, break it up, and control it in the end. The Fatah dissident movement was represented by only a few members whose number does not exceed the fingers on one hand. However, Arab funds succeeded in rallying scores of mercenaries and malicious men around this movement. Following the Tripoli battles, the facts became clear. The dissident movement itself split up. Its leader abandoned the movement and confined himself to his house after realizing the harm he had done to the higher national interest. Within a short of period, the dissident movement shrunk and its reports disappeared from the newspapers after it had failed to achieve its objectives. It became clear to everyone that the real dispute was between Syria and the PLO.

Aware of this fact and wishing to settle this dispute, we resorted to friendly Arab and international mediations, asking for a mediation of this dispute with Syria. Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and the PDRY did their best to heal the rift. The friendly USSR and Cuba also carried out good offices. However, all these attempts failed to attain any positive results. There were some who claimed that the crisis was caused by the presence of the brother commander in chief at the head of the PLO, and that his dismissal or resignation would settle the dispute and unity would be restored to the PLO. When we discussed this claim in detail, we became more certain that the real cause of our dispute with them was not caused by the person of Brother Abu 'Ammar. However, the real cause of this dispute and its essence consisted of national crisis directed against the PLO. The Fatah command and the sincere nationalist forces had to cooperate to settle this dispute and eliminate its negative results. The truth is that sincere nationalist efforts were exerted toward that end. The stands of many Palestinian resistance factions and independent nationalist figures embodied Palestinian national loftiness. These factions held a series of lengthy dialogues to prove to the world that the Palestinian citizen rejects internecine fighting, denounces and condemns it, and does his best to safeguard the PLO and its nationalist march with maturity and conviction.

Dialogue Among Resistance Factions

For at least 9 months, dialogue was held among Fatah, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], the PFLP, the Palestinian Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party to reach agreement on common denominators. Meetings were held in Aden, then in Algeria. A series of lengthy meetings were held. Fraternal Algeria and the PDRY did their best to guide this Palestinian dialogue. They contributed to the success of this dialogue and at the end of this dialogue an agreement was reached among these organizations which signed the agreement in the presence of Algeria and the PDRY, which also signed the agreement. This agreement represented a new resurgence of the PLO. The PLF agreed to this agreement without hesitation. This agreement signed on 13 July 1984 set 15 September 1984 as the maximum date for convening the PNC session. When the agreement was reached and its provisions were made public, Syria opposed it.

The Democratic Alliance, made up of the PFLP and the DFLP, with which we were holding a dialogue, was supposed to hold a dialogue with the remaining factions that called themselves the National Alliance. However, the Democratic Alliance sensed that the National Alliance was trying to impose preconditions on it which could neither be accepted nor discussed, because the PNC is the only venue for the discussion of such preconditions. Dialogue between them failed.

While this was taking place, Fatah resorted to all means to hold a dialogue with Syria. Early last July, Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] left for Damascus in accordance with a decision made by the command to meet President al-Asad. The meeting lasted many hours during which the crisis and its dimensions were discussed. Syria's stand was that the dispute is a dispute with Brother Abu 'Ammar's policy and trend. Our stand was that the dispute consisted of the dissident movement and those who are behind it, those who pushed the Palestinian revolution to the furnace of differences and fighting.

Our people have condemned this internecine fighting. Our people will never accept another dissension. Syria should have played a positive role in settling this crisis from the beginning because it is able to do so if it wants. From the beginning, Syria did not conceal its sympathy with the dissident movement. Despite all this, the Fatah Central Committee was ready to hold an expanded dialogue with the Syrian leadership in order to reach a complete understanding on relations. However, these meetings were not resumed and we did not receive a direct response from Syria. The resistance factions and Algeria have been told that Syria is ready for dialogue if the Fatah Central Committee issues a statement in which it finds Brother Abu 'Ammar as it what is actually demanded is a new dissension or at least rejecting dialogue with the Central Committee. [sentence as heard] Despite all this, the Arab and Palestinian efforts did not stop at this point. In fact, they continued to push in this direction. The PDRY had dispatched its representative to Damascus; President 'Ali Nasir himself went to Damascus. Algeria dispatched its representatives more than once. However, the results were unsatisfactory. Algeria and the PDRY have called for a comprehensive dialogue, but this, too, has not produced any results. Syria and the National Alliance have continued their intransigence. The dialogue that Algeria and the PDRY have held did not achieve the required results.

After this, the PNC was supposed to be held in Algiers, but the PFLP rejected this and said no to the PNC at that time. The matter stopped at this point and Algeria found itself embarrassed. It could not give either a negative or positive answer regarding the convocation of the PNC. This urged us to relieve Algeria of this responsibility.

After this, the PLO Executive Committee had decided — in accordance with its decision that was made on 5 Janury 1984 — to hold the PNC in Amman. After we had toured the entire Arab world and listened to all the Arab officials, the result was that Jordan and Iraq had greatly welcomed the hosting the PNC. Thus, it was decided to hold the PNC in Amman on 22 November 1984.

Brothers, despite the instigative role Libya has played in creating and supporting the dissension and offering the necessary funds and weapons, we believe that the issue that needs to be settled is the deteriorating relations between us and our brothers in Syria.

Brother Abu 'Ammar's Visit to Cairo

We cannot — as Abu 'Ammar insists — but point to Brother Abu 'Ammar's visit to Cairo following his departure from Tripoli. We do not need to explain to you the circumstances that surrounded this visit because you are aware of the details. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Brother Abu 'Ammar's visit has created a wide dispute in the Arab, Palestinian, and international arenas, and people differed on its advantages and disadvantages. The Fatah Central Committee has issued a statement on this visit. The PLO Executive Committee has also made its decision to refer it to the legitimate institutions to be discussed. The

Aden-Algiers agreement has also touched on this visit in one of its articles.

Regardless of all these decisions and judgments, you will inevitably discuss this visit wisely and patiently and give your opinion on it after listening to Brother Abu 'Ammar from whom you have already listened in the past, because you represent the highest PLO authority and also represent all the Palestinian people's sectors and organizations.

The Occupied Territory

The formation of the so-called national unity government following the recent elections in Israel proves to those who did not believe that the Labor Party does not differ from the Likud in its policy and dealings with the Palestine question and our Palestinian people's rights. The formation of the present government from the two major parties under the name of the national unity government proves that these two parties are integrated, harmonious, and in agreement regarding the implementation of the Zionist program to seize the land, continue expansion, escalate settlements, and empty the land of its legitimate owners through terrorism, torture, murder, confiscation, and usurpation.

The Likud adopts a racist and expansionist policy based on the idea of greater Israel. In announcing Likud's determination to annex the occupied territories, Yitzhaq Shamir said: The green line of the 4 June border that was determined in 1967 has vanished forever. He also said: There is no need for us to annex what is ours. The Likud members and their allies consider the entire land of Palestine as part of the Jewish heritage, and that any part of it cannot in any way be relinquished.

The Alignment and their supporters are also similar to the Likud regarding hostility and Zionism. Regarding essential issues, they are no different from the Likud and the other Zionist parties. This is expressed by the following: no to withdrawal to the 4 June border; no to the division of Jerusalem; no to the recognition of and negotiations with the PLO; no to the independent Palestinian state; and no to dismantling the settlements.

Finally, Israel, under the rule of the Labor Party, occupied the whole of Palestine, Sinai, and the Golan Heights. The Labor Party is the side that began establishing settlements in the occupied territories. Although it appears, compared to the Likud, that the Labor Party enjoys some flexibility in its proposals for a settlement, the Alignment adopts more dangerous and uglier plans to achieve the Zionist objectives and its project in Palestine. The two main parties in the Zionist entity differ only over the ways of safeguarding expansionist Israel and the ways to achieve Zionist designs and destroy the Palestinian people, obliterate their identity, and end their existence. Any realistic and serious look into the Alignments' program explains everything about this fact.

In light of this, past Israeli and Zionist actions have been characterized by continuing settlements, threats, the seizure of lands, killing our people, and attempts to remove refugee camps in order to remove a live witness to the Palestinian people's tragedy. In the field of settlements, the number of settlements established so far is: 159 settlements in the West Bank, 12 settlements in the Gaza Strip, and 10 quarters built around the occupied city of Jerusalem. The rate of settlements for this year has reached 60 percent. The Zionist enemy government had decided to established 62 settlements only in the past year. The wide escalation during that period was represented by intensifying settlements on the ground, and by the feverish activity that was carried out in various forms to seize the lands through confiscation or forgery.

In order to facilitate seizure of land by force, Israeli Commander of the Central Region Colonel Uri Ur had issued an order depriving the West Bank courts of all their authority to examine the land suits. Consequently, this order also deprives Arab land owners of the decisions that these courts had issued or would issue in their favor.

During the year 1983-84, the Israeli Government had allocated $470 million to implement its settlement plans. This government fund does not include the settlers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The central settlement plan aims at settling more than a million Jews who do not belong to the new immigrants, but who are current citizens in occupied Palestine. This plan aims at establishing 57 new settlements in the West Bank until the year 1986, in addition to the present settlements.

On the level of Judaization, the Israeli authorities have given a free hand to the terrorist gangs. These gangs act against the Palestinian citizens in Hebron and Jerusalem, armed with all the means of terrorism and murder. The Zionist terrorists have burnt the central market in Hebron and a number of Arab buses in the city. A curfew was also imposed on the city following a massacre inside the Islamic University — a massacre that cost scores of Palestinian students their lives. All this had happened after Qiryat Arba' was established and a great part of the Ibrahimi Mosque was turned into a Jewish synagogue.

The aim is to remove all Palestinians from the city and to Judaize it. In the City of Jeruslaem, Judaization operations are continuing on all levels. The aim of these operations is to Judaize the entire city in response to and in implementation of the basic law to annex Jerusalem that was issued by the Israeli Knesset on 30 July 1980. Judaization oeprations were carried out last year in the following fields: settlement; confiscation of lands; transfer of Jewish governmental, administrative, social, and security centers and departments to the City of Jerusalem; threatening holy places; encroachments on the Al-Aqsa Mosque, including excavations and armed attacks; and the attempt to establish a settlement and an armed Jewish post on the grounds of the holy mosque.

Evidence and statements made by Jewish rabbis and diehards confirm that seizing and destroying the Al-Aqsa Mosque and building the temple in its place is only a matter of time. When the Jewish border guards violated the sanctity of the Al-Aqsa Mosque with the support of the Zionist government, the Islamic Council in Jerusalem called for a general strike in the occupied territory as an expression of our people's rejection of and resistance to the Zionist occupation. The call resulted in public demonstrations on 19 November as an expression of our people's resistance to Zionist occupation.

On the other hand, the occupation authorities still continue to close Al-Najah University in Nabulus. Other Palestinian universities, especially the Universities of Bi'r Zayt, Bethlehem, and Gaza, also continue to be closed from time to time. The Zionist authority's border guards continue to patrol the streets of Nabulus and to provoke the citizens. However, our heroic Palestinian people under occupation are using every means of resistance against the Zionist occupation forces. They are facing these forces with full violence, resolution, faith, and patriotism that deserve our praise and appreciation.

Our people's resistance to Zionist occupation is not confined to the West Bank and Gaza, but has extended to include the part of Palestine occupied in 1948. The lofty village of 'Umm al-Fahm and its heroic inhabitants confronted the terrorist Rabbi Kahane, whose gang in the KAKH movement organized an operation to storm this village, kill its people, and intimidate them in order to force them to leave their land and properties.

Thus our great Palestinian people in all parts of occupied Palestine resisted with full resolution and sacrifice all the acts of oppression, murder, and torture carried out by the Zionist occupation authorities directly or indirectly through Israeli gangs, such as the KAKH gang led by Rabbi Kahane. Since it is the Zionist community in the occupied territory that produced the KAKH movement, it is natural to say that this movement's methods and objectives reflect the will of the Zionist movement, the Zionist community, and the Zionist authorities in the occupied territory, as well as its final attitude toward our people, territory, and cause. Therefore, it is not strange for such gangs to be represented in the Knesset by Rabbi Kahane and other racists.

Brothers, this is a brief summation of what really takes place in our occupied territory and what our people and kinfolk suffer. We have made it a point to be as brief as possible without going into much detail since you are all aware of what is taking place. Therefore, the council is aware of the great responsibility it is shouldering and of the necessity to adopt practical decisions and measures to back our people's steadfastness and daily struggle so they can resist this Israeli policy and these terrorist acts, and expose them to world opinion and also escalate their armed struggle and use all forms of national resistance.

The Lebanese Situation

I would like at the beginning to discourse on Lebanon to record our sincere appreciation and gratitude to our fraternal Lebanese people [applause], under the leadership of their national movement, for the great sacrifices they have made in our common struggle for more than 10 years against the Zionist enemy and its criminal acts of war. Brothers, we will never forget the martyrs of beloved Lebanon who fell for the sake of Lebanon's Arabism and in defense of the Palestinian revolution. Brothers, we will not forget that great struggler the late martyr Kamal Junblatt [applause]. Brothers, we will not forget struggler martyrs Ma'ruf Sa'd and the thousands of other martyrs in all Lebanon.

Our departure from Beirut in 1982 was a historic turning point because we lost a basic center of our revolutionary action. Nonetheless, history will recall the Palestinian and Lebanese people's legendary steadfastness and their lofty stand for more than 3 months against the Zionist siege on immortal Beirut. We left Beirut in accordance with a written agreement and commitment to protect Palestinian and Lebanese civilians, and in accordance with an international guarantee that the Zionist forces would not enter Beirut. We left behind trained and well armed Palestinian and Lebanese people. They are now pursuing their strikes against the Zionist occupiers and preventing their army from entrenching its positions. But the U.S.-Israeli alliance and those who are revolving in its orbit violated this agreement and this international guarantee when they committed the crime of the century in Sabra and Shatila, where hundreds of unarmed Palestinians and Lebanese fell, including old men, women, and children.

Brothers, the Lebanese crisis and the internal disputes continue to this day, more than 2 years after we left Beirut. The continuation of the Lebanese crisis reaffirms that the Palestinian presence has never been the cause of the Lebanese problem, as Israel and the Lebanese parties collaborating with it used to claim. On the contrary, what is taking place in Lebanon confirms that we were a deterrent force in the face of any sectarian trend or fighting in that fraternal country. We did so because we believe in Lebanese national unity.

Irrespective of the real causes of the Lebanese problem, which was sown by the imperialist forces in Lebanon, the national dialogue conference in Geneva and Lausanne showed the depth and complexity of the problem. The U.S.-Israeli alliance pushed the Lebanese crisis in the direction of a sectarian conflict in order to divide Lebanon along sectarian and communal lines — just as the Israeli entity is structured along communal lines — prior to dividing and balkanizing the entire region, controlling its fate, and consequently reaching the oil-rich areas. This would then enable Israel to expand at the expense of the Palestinian people and other Arabs in the service of world imperialist interests, especially U.S. interests. Thus, imperialism would ensure the continued flow of Arab oil, the exploitation of the natural resources of the Arab homeland, and the control of key strategic areas in the global conflict — areas that link Europe to Asia and Africa and dominate sea, land, and air routes.

This is why the U.S. Administration has coordinated policy with Israel, increased its aggressive military capabilities, and used it as a strategic base for subjugating the region and threatening Soviet security by eliminating the USSR's friendly presence in this part of the world. All this led to signing the strategic alliance agreement, which is the first of its kind in the history of U.S.-Israeli relations, flouting thereby all its traditional, historical ties in the Arab world.

Despite all the resources that the United States has placed at the disposal of this alliance and despite all of Israel's terrorist acts, the alliance could not face up to the will of the Lebanese people, who saw the effects of this alliance in the 4 June 1982 invasion and the massacres of Sabra and Shatila. The full picture of this aggressive alliance and its aims became very clear. The Lebanese people then realized that the only way to salvation — that is, to regaining Lebanon's freedom, unity, and Arabism — is national resistance and armed struggle.

On this occasion I would like to hail the Lebanese resistance men and their Palestinian brothers who stand by their side in creating a new legend of steadfastness despite all the savage raids they have faced and will continued to face — raids that reached even northern Lebanon, western Al-Biqa', and Ba'albakk. Indeed, we are not surprised to see this national awakening in Lebanon represented in mighty fedayeen operations that prompted the Washington administration to reconsider its strategy in Lebanon and to pull its forces out of Lebanon. This led to a shifting of the balance of power in Lebanon and to the cancellation of the 17 May agreement. We are fully confident that the Lebanese people, who are trying by all available means to get rid of Israeli occupation, will not fall into the trap of an agreement which would prevent the achievement of their national and pan-Arab relations.

Arab Relations: Syria

It is regrettable that PLO-Syrian relations reached such a state of deterioration. The PLO and Syria have found themselves confronting one another while the nature of the battle with the Zionist-imperialist enemy requires them to be in one trench for the common pan-Arab struggle toward one aim and against one common enemy. The PLO exerted all its efforts to restore normal relations with Syria. It sought the mediation of fraternal and friendly countries. But all these attempts clashed with Syria's biased stand in support of the dissident movement which enabled the movement to seize Fatah offices and institutions, as we said.

To safeguard Syria's internal security and avoid any Palestinian infighting and discredit to the Palestinian revolution, we resorted to political and peaceful means through Arab and Palestinian mediation committees. But all this was not heeded by the other side. Disturbances, fighting, and assaults on institutions, individuals, and bases continued. From the very beginning we requested the Syrian leadership to intervene and stop the fighting and the use of armed force as a means for solving disputes. We assured them that we would not object to anyone who wanted to join the dissidents. Regrettably, however, we were surprised by an escalation of the fighting and then by the Syrian authorities' request for the departure of Brother Abu 'Ammar from Damascus, as we said.

The situation worsened and the Palestinian arena became more tense and critical. Other small organizations joined the dissidents in the fighting. The major Palestinian organizations — the DFLP, the PFLP, the Arab Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Liberation Front — rejected this unsound logic of Palestinian infighting, and demanded an abrupt end to it because the Palestinian revolution has long-standing national bases and traditions that prohibit fighting in solving internal disputes.

Throughout this period, the Syrian media defended the dissidents and their subversive claims and objectives. With the outbreak of the Tripoli battle, the gap between us and Syria widened. This prompted us to think calmly and objectively about the possible reasons for that strange Syrian stand. We wondered: Could there be any political dispute between the PLO and Syria, or any personal dispute between President al-Asad and Brother Yasir 'Arafat? We were not convinced of any personal dispute. Therefore what caused this great tension in relations between the organization and Syria must have been certain specific political differences that cannot be concealed by slogans and propaganda.

What are these political differences? Are they about the PLO's Charter, which includes bases, principles, and objectives which the organization upholds and seeks to achieve? Are they differences on Arab soldiarity and its purport, that is, joint Arab action? Are they differences on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which we reject? [applause] Are they differences on the Fes peace plan? Are they differences on the Camp David accords, for instance, which we, as an organization, at the Baghdad conference rejected and urged the Arabs to condemn? Are they differences on rejection of the Reagan plan?

There are many questions that can be raised as to the reasons for this strong illogical difference. We agree with the views of the brothers in Syria on most of these matters, but we differ with them on our viewpoint on the Iraq-Iran war, on which they have adopted a biased stand toward Iran. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, despite all that is happening and has happened, the PLO, out of a national and pan-Arab stand, believes that correct relations between us and Syria are necessitated by the nature of the battle against imperialism and Israel. This is what urged us from the beginning to resort to brothers and friends in order to hold a fruitful and constructive dialogue between us and Syria to reach an understanding on our various stands and establish relations on clear basis that confirms: first, the Arab nation's joint struggle against Israeli aggression and imperialist and Zionist threats; second, the decision of peace and war — an Arab decision that no single Arab party can deal with unilaterally; third, the PLO — the Palestinian people's sole legitimate represenative and the leader of their struggle; fourth, the commitment to the principle of noninterference by any Arab side in the other Arab parties' domestic affairs, including the PLO.

Brothers, in fact, the most important difference we have with Syria is on its continuous attempts to impose its hegemony on the PLO, contain it, and confiscate Palestinian national decision-making. This is not the first time we have differed with Syria. We differed with Syria when it entered Lebanon in 1976. We also differed with it in 1982 when it signed the cease-fire during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. We also differed with Syria when it adopted and supported the dissension movement. These are the real reasons for our differences with Syria. Despite all this, and out of our concern about national and pan-Arab interests, we are ready to establish normal relations with Syria when it relinquishes its objectives that led to our differences with it.

Jordan

The harmony and interrelations between our Palestinian and Jordanian peoples were entrenched over more than 30 years. This gave a special nature to these relations unmatched by our relations with any other fraternal Arab people. These distinguished relations urged the PNC at its 17th session to adopt a decision to confirm this fact and call for confederal relations between Jordan and Palestine in the future after the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on our national soil. The PNC also called on the PLO Executive Committee to continue dialogue with

Jordan for this reason. The Executive Committee has exerted great efforts in implementing these decisions and made great strides in this regard.

Convening the PNC's 17th session in Amman represents a new turning point in fraternal relations between us and Jordan. Needless to say, our PNC resolutions, the Arab summit resolutions, and our people's interests form bases for establishing strong fraternal relations. We must not forget to mention that the special Palestinian-Jordanian relations are also geographical, demographic, pan-Arab, and political issues. Jordan has the longest border with our occupied land. Most of our people live on the two banks of the Jordan River. The expulsion of citizens and other Zionist measures affect Jordan more than the other Arab countries. Jordan also plays a special role alongside us in supporting the steadfastness of our kinfolk in the occupied land and in dealing with their interests and daily affairs. This requires us to exert a double effort to crystallize a clear-cut Jordanian-Palestinian policy in order to liberate our occupied land and confront all the Zionist plans to obliterate the national Palestinian personality and to brandish threats regarding the alternative homeland.

For the future, the formulation of overall Palestinian-Jordanian relations requires dealing with the pan-Arab and national goals and aspirations of the two fraternal Jordanian-Palestinian peoples. It also requires action to solve the daily problems and security issues. Our people under the occupation or in exile are looking forward to special Jordanian-Palestinian relations for confronting all the dangers that are surrounding us. These special relations will not be one of the Arab axes. They are a necessity for promoting the joint Arab struggle and developing its methods.

Egypt

Egypt is the largest Arab power in military, political, and human spheres. It is playing an important role in giving momentum to the Palestine question regardless of the restrictions of the Camp David accords. We notice that the national forces in Egypt reject the Camp David accords and are trying to remove their restrictions. As a result of our desire to enable Egypt to return to the Arab fold and of our commitment to the Baghdad summit resolutions, we are required to take a unified Arab position to help Egypt destroy its restrictions and return to the Arab fold with all its power and capability. In fact, achieving this principle requires continued effort and serious Arab cooperation to reach the aspired results. We have strengthened our relations with the Egyptian national movement, which visited the Palestinian revolution during the Beirut and Tripoli sieges. Demonstrations also took place in Cairo in support of the Palestinian revolution and its legitimate leadership.

After Al-Sadat, Egypt foiled the process of normalization. The Egyptian people refused to deal with Israel. Egypt stopped the autonomy talks and promoted its support for the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It also restored its diplomatic relations with the friendly Soviet Union. There is no doubt that Egypt took all these positive steps in order to resume its previous place within the Arab group.

You must discuss this matter in a thorough and detailed manner. Perhaps you will arrive at resolutions that will guide the new PLO Executive Committee in its political moves with the other Arab countries to create a suitable climate allowing Egypt to take more positive steps to resume its natural place among the Arab group.

Iraqi-Iranian War

The eruption of the Iraqi-Iranian war in 1980 has cast dark shadows on the entire region. An armed conflict between Islamic and neighboring countries like Iraq and Iran sows division and discord among the countries in the region, even after Iran has been saved from the rule of the shah, who was the friend of Israel and the United States. Undoubtedly, the emergence of the Iranian revolution was a turning point in Iran's history. We had hoped that this revolution would devote its potentials to fighting the Zionist enemy, but the eruption of the Iraqi-Iranian war prevented these two countries from carrying out their complete and Islamic role toward the Palestinian cause. The prolongation of this war has posed threats to the region's security, and made the imperialist military intervention a probability under the pretext of protecting oil sources and securing its continued flow to Western countries. This war also cast dark shadows on the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict, because it became the center of attention of world public opinion.

We in the PLO have exerted efforts with the parties concerned to halt this war, but without any success. We have also worked within the framework of the Islamic Good Offices Committee and the committee formed by the nonaligned countries. There, too, we did not succeed. More than 4 years have passed and the oil and economic resources of these two countries continued to be exhausted in the furnace of this war. This war expanded, and Saudi and Kuwaiti oil tankers were attacked. This prompted the United States and its allies to express their readiness to directly interfere in the Gulf region with their fleets and their rapid deployment forces. Had it not been for the stand of some of these Gulf countries and their rejection of such an interference, the Gulf region would have been filled with fleets, warships, and soldiers under the pretext of protecting the Hormuz Strait and the transport of oil. The Arab foreign ministers council which convened in May 1984 agreed to submit the issue to the UN Security Council which passed its resolution condemning the attacks against Saudi and Kuwaiti oil tankers.

The effects of this war also spread to the Red Sea where the imperialist and Zionist powers planted mines so that imperialist countries may find another excuse to have a military presence there and to obtain maritime facilities on Red Sea shores. This made it necessary for Arab and friendly countries to adopt a cohesive stand to prevent this imperialist interference. Thus, we realize that the Iraqi-Iranian war, and the threats it entails are being exploited by world imperialism and Zionism as pretexts to complete their hegemony and control over Middle East countries and to besiege nationalist forces.

In spite of the many world efforts to halt this war, it continues to rage. Iraq has really shown a noticeable flexibility in welcoming the mediations international quarters are exerting. Our of our concern for our good relations with both Iraq and Iran, we continue as the PLO to exert many efforts. Perhaps we will

succeed in reaching a quick solution to this conflict between two Muslim people bound together by deep-rooted historical and cultural relations.

The Arab State of Affairs

Any observer of the Arab state of affairs clearly realizes the extent of the deterioration and division it has reached. This has paralyzed Arab will and obstructed joint Arab action. This state of affairs has also deprived the Arab League of the spirit of cooperation and solidarity. This became apparent in the failure to convene any Arab foreign ministers' conference to discuss these differences and work to settle them. This also became apparent in the repeated postponements of the Arab summit conference.

After the 12th summit conference, held in Fes in 1982, which approved the Arab peace plan, a seven-member committee, including us, was formed to publicize this plan and to discuss it with the permanent members of the UN Security Council. This committee visited the capitals of the big powers. The USSR and PRC responded to this plan. The United States and Britain rejected it, and France considered it an acceptable basis for a political settlement.

Many countries saw in this initiative postiive, encouraging signs supporting the Palestine question and the PLO, as well as the peace process in the Middle East, because it enjoyed Arab unanimity. This seven-member committee should have continued its task, but it stopped at this point because some of its members refused to proceed with the task for different reasons. We did our best to reactivate the committee, but the prevailing Arab situation and sharp Arab differences prevented that. The committee's activity was the last manifestation of joint Arab action.

Arab action reached the state of complete paralysis. This had a negative effect on the Palestine question and the word's interest in it and on the PLO and other Arab issues. We fully realize that Palestinian action is directly affected by prevailing Arab conditions and that it must depend on a broad base of Arab solidarity and joint action. Therefore, we have always tried to purify the Arab atmosphere and to prevent any further Arab division and disintegration, which jeopardize not only the Palestine question, but the very structure and entity of Arab society. Hostile forces want to divide and balkanize the region and deepen sectarian, religious, and racial conflicts in it. The dangers resulting from this deteriorating situation will not be confined to the Palestine question, but will also threaten other Arab issues, such as the Lebanese question and the Iraq-Iran war, which lacks a unified Arab stand.

The Arab situation has reached a state of complete paralysis that has affected other countries' stands on the Palestine question and the world's interest in it. This is clear in the slow political action of West European countries, which considered the lack of Arab solidarity an excuse. Arab differences have also encouraged the United States and Israel to escalate their rabid propaganda and political campaigns before world public opinion and in international forums against the PLO and its legitimate leadership. They claimed that the PLO is vanishing and that it no longer constitutes a basic element in any international effort to solve the Palestine question.

It is indeed saddening and sorrowful for the Palestine question, which is the Arabs' first and central cause, to become a card used in Arab differences and a tool for serving the narrow regional interests of certain Arab regimes; hence our concern that the Palestine question always remains the basis for Arab solidarity and joint action. We warn that the Arab region will slip into a policy of polarization and confrontation if the situation continues as it is. This calls on all honest national forces throughout the Arab homeland to take immediate action to stop this deterioration in Arab relations. The PLO, out of awareness of its national and pan-Arab responsibilities, calls on the Arab brothers to settle their differences and place pan-Arab interests above all other considerations.

Relations With the Socialist Countries

The stands of the socialist bloc countries, headed by the friendly USSR, on the Palestine question are firm and principled. They are giving material, political, and moral support and assistance to the Palestinian people and their just struggle. On the international level, the socialist countries have supported the Palestinian people's inalienable rights. They severed relations with Israel after the 1967 aggression. They supported without reservation the PLO's stands, policy, and legitimate leadership as well as our people's right to establish their independent state.

The friendly USSR plays a leading role among these countries, especially in international activities. The USSR has exerted great efforts on this level to achieve a just solution to the Palestine and Middle East question; hence the USSR's latest initiative toward end of July. In my opinion, this initiative constitutes a suitable basis for any comprehensive, just settlement in the region. This initiative includes new elements such as placing the West Bank and the Gaza sector under the supervision of the United Nations, with Palestinian approval, for several months. After the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, this state would determine by virtue of sovereignty the nature of its relations with neighboring countries, including the possibility of establishing a confederation. The initiative also gave some details on the objectives, composition, and framework of the international conference. This important Soviet initiative enjoyed Palestinian, Arab, and international support.

We mention with appreciation the USSR's role during the recent crisis experienced by the PLO. The USSR has exerted and is still exerting great positive efforts to preserve the PLO. We would also like to praise the great political and material support we are getting from the GDR, which has always placed all its resources at the disposal of the PLO and its legitimate leadership. We would also like to thank Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, the CSSR, Poland, the DPRK, Vietnam, Laos, and Albania.

I am pleased here to make special mention of the friendly PRC, which, since the inception of our revolution and the establishment of the PLO, has adopted a firm principled stand. It recognized the PLO from the first moment and established full diplomatic relations with it. Throughout the past years, the PRC has given us all forms of material and moral support and assistance on all

levels. The visit by Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the revolution forces, to the PRC a few months ago was another occasion when the PRC confirmed its support for us and for the Palestinian people's struggle as well as for the PLO and its legitimate leadership.

The ICO

Proceeding from the principle that the Palestine question is an Arab and Islamic issue, the ICO continues to deal with the Palestine question as its top priority in its conferences at the ministerial or summit levels. Moreover, the ICO was established in 1969 because of the Palestine question, particularly when the Zionist cliques tried to commit the crime of destroying the Al Aqsa Mosque. Thus, the ICO continues to make appropriate decisions in support of the PLO. We should also not forget the political and financial support that the ICO extends to us to preserve the holy places and Islamic endowments in the occupied territories.

The African Countries

The OAU considers the Palestine question as an African cause. It deals with the PLO as if it is one of the African liberation movements that it recognizes. It also lists the Palestine question on its conferences' agendas both in its ministerial or summit conferences. It also condemns Israel for its occupation of Palestinian land and for its inhuman practices against the citizens in the occupied territories. It is in the vanguard of the African countries that support us, countries that include Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, the Congo, Mali, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, and Angola. There is no doubt that we are aware of the current, difficult, financial circumstances of most of the African countries, a fact that makes it incumbent on the oil-producing Arab countries to continue their financial support for the African countries, because Africa's power and its liberation from the imperialist and colonialist pressure will help the Arab nation in its battle against the Zionist enemy. This will also enable the two sides through their joint cooperation to liquidate the imperialist influence and the colonialist hegemony over Africa and the Arab homeland.

It is regrettable that the Arab differences have reflected negatively on the unity of opinion in the OAU. The failure of the African summit conference in Tripoli, a conference that was not convened, is evidence of the reflection of Arab differences over Africa. We should also take action to expose cooperation between the two racist regimes in Israel and South Africa and to reveal spheres of cooperation and coordination between them in order to prevent racist Pretoria from tightening its fist on the South African people. It will be an action that will contribute to underming these two regimes and strengthening the struggle of the two peoples in Palestine and in South Africa and Namibia.

The Nonaligned Movement

At the beginning of our talks about the Nonaligned Movement, we should refer with sorrow and sadness to the great loss that befell India and the Nonaligned Movement in general as a result of the death of Indira Gandhi, Indian prime minister and chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. Due to the absence of Indira Gandhi, the Palestinian people have lost one of their prominent friends and one who defended the Palestinian people's cause. We are confident that friendly India will continue to adhere to nonalignment under Rajiv Gandhi, who assumed his important post under difficult and critical circumstances. He will follow the steps of his great mother with honesty and sincerity. We with him success.

The Nonaligned Movement has stood beside the Palestinian people and their just cause. Since 1975, we have been enjoying our membership. The recent conference of the movement that was held in New Delhi in May 1974 issued a resolution in which it reiterated its support for the Palestinian people and their right to repatriation, to self-determination, and to establishing their own independent state. This conference also formed a special committee, called the Eight-Member Committee, to follow up the implementation of the Nonaligned Movement's resolutions regarding the Palestine question and the Middle East, a fact that constitutes a great gain for our struggle at the international level.

We in the PLO highly appreciate these stands and the support of the nonaligned states. We also work continuously for bolstering our bilateral relations with the nonaligned states. We also appreciate the friendly SFRY's stands and its numerous initiatives in support of the Palestine question, our people's struggle, and their legitimate leadership. We also appreciate Cuba's stands through its membership in the Nonaligned Movement and its chairmanship at the last session. Cuba has also adopted honorable stands toward our people and their struggle. It has exerted great efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war and help the PLO overcome its crisis.

Relations With the National Liberation Movements

As a national liberation movement, the PLO has firm militant relations with the liberation movements in Africa, Latin America, and elsewhere in the world. In this regard, we are proud that with our limited potentials, we extend all possible support for the liberation movements in South Africa, Namibia, and El Salvador so that these peoples can achieve victory and their national objectives. We are also proud of the militant and friendly relations with Nicaragua, which is being exposed to imperialist threats and pressure against its national independence and security. The PLO finds itself obligated toward effective solidarity with the liberation of the struggler peoples so that they and we can achieve the inevitable victory.

The U.S. Stand

The United States is continuing its traditional imperialist policy in the Middle East on the basis of hostility toward Arab interests and aspirations, ignoring the Palestinian people's national rights and attempting to impose U.S. influence over the entire region through fragmenting the Arab stand and striking at the Soviet-Arab friendship relations. The United States is also still committed to Israel's military supremacy over all the Arab states through supporting Israel's military and economic decisions and covering its expansionist policies.

During recent years, Israeli-U.S. relations achieved an unprecedented progress when the U.S. Administration made basic

structural changes in the relations between Tel Aviv and Washington. These new changes have acquired a special seriousness through the formation of the joint political and military committee — a committee that is entrusted with joint planning and training and relocating U.S. equipment in Israel. In addition to this, the United States exerts efforts to support and save the deteriorating Israeli economy and concluded an agreement of the free trade zone that allows Israel to export goods to the U.S markets without being taxed. Despite all this, some sides still expect a change in the U.S. policy toward the Middle East crisis and the Palestine question after Reagan's second term of office. However, we in the PLO do not expect this, because the bases that govern the U.S. course in this region are the same as they were when President Reagan first proposed his plan on 1 September 1982. This plan ignores our people's national rights as approved and defined by the United Nations. These rights are the right to self-determination, repatriation, and the establishment of the Palestinian state on the national Palestinian soil.

Perhaps the firm stand that our PNC adopted in its 16th session in Algiers toward the Reagan plan can explain what the PLO has been and is being exposed to in terms of pressure, plots, and conspiracies aimed at liquidating the PLO as the Palestinian people's legitimate representative, their official spokesman, and the struggler for their national aspirations. All these attempts were made to deal with desperate or conspiratorial elements who accept what the PLO has rejected.

On this occasion, we would like to reaffirm that the PLO continues to remain committed to the stand defined in the previous PNC session. This stand states that any just solution to the Middle East crisis must take place within the framework of an international conference under UN supervision, on the basis of UN resolutions, and with the participation of the two superpowers and all the countries and parties concerned, including the PLO. This must take place on equal footing and with equal rights. It is worth mentioning that this Palestinian stand enjoys Arab and world support with the exception of the United States and Israel.

EEC Countries

The EEC countries did not participate in the international conference on the Palestinian cause that convened in Geneva in the summer of 1983. They only attended in the capacity of observers, with the exception of Greece which fully participated. [applause] This behavior was the expression of a stand by the referent countries to weaken the resolutions of the referent conference. This EEC stand was in harmony with the EEC countries stand on the UN General Assembly's resolution with respect to the convening of this conference.

The only development in the EEC countries collective stand after the Venice declaration was that contained in the statement of the heads of state of these countries issued on 22 March 1984 which called for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in the full sense of the word, the need to take into consideration the Palestinian people's will in any negotiations that may take place, and the need for PLO participation in these negotiations at the side of the parties concerned.

If we want to distinguish among the EEC countries in terms of their respective stands in the EEC we must affirm here that each of France, Italy, and Greece has exerted big efforts to develop the EEC stand toward the Palestinian cause and the PLO. We can clearly say that the United Kingdom is the country which has responded the least to the development of European stands for the better. It is worth mentioning that Greece is the only country in the EEC which has refused to sign the resolution lifting the economic ban on Israel that was made by the Stuttgart summit. Greece has done so in spite of the fact that its refusal constituted a serious precedent with respect to the rule of unanimity within the EEC.

Austria must be singled out from among the many West European counties which are exerting special and unique efforts in support for the Palestinian cause and for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Austria's role is clearly apparent in this field within the Socialist International. It participated as a member in the international conference on the Palestinian cause which convened in Geneva last year.

Brothers, faced with these facts, we believe that West Europe, whose interests are closely linked to the Arab world and whose security is affected by the situation in the Middle East, must really adopt more advanced stands concerning the Palestinian cause and a more positive and more independent role in the international efforts seeking to establish a just peace in the Middle East.

Our Relations With the Vatican

The Vatican has no diplomatic relations with Israel and has strongly stood against Israel's decision to annex Jerusalem and consider it as the unified capital of Israel. Our relations with the Vatican were crowned by the historic meeting between His Holiness Pope John Paul II and Brother Abu 'Ammar in September 1982. This meeting has confirmed that the Catholic Church considers the PLO as a movement of struggle for peace and justice. [applause]

The Palestine Question in the United Nations

Since 1974, the United Nations has played an important role in support of the Palestine question. In accordance with the 1981 UN General Assembly resolution, an international conference on the Palestine question was held in Geneva from 29 August to 7 September 1983. The conference recommended to the UN General Assembly to convene an international conference for Middle East peace under the auspices of the United Nations and on the basis of the principles of its charter and its pertinent resolutions. One of the basic factors is the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in Palestine. The conference was attended by the representatives of 137 states, both members and observers, and more than 118 nongovernmental organizations as well as several international figures. The conference was boycotted by the United States and Israel.

The General Assembly empowered Secretary General Peres de Cuellar to exert his efforts to implement the General Assembly resolution concerning the international conference and to submit his report on this subject to the next session of the General

Assembly. In this regard, the secretary general visited Washington and the countries concerned in the region and the USSR. He also met with Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the Executive Committee, on 10 July 1984 in Geneva. The secretary general told the brother commander in chief in this meeting that the United States and Israel reject the idea of an international conference. He expressed the general belief that it would not be possible to hold the international conference if Israel and the United States continued their rejection. Therefore, he said, he had some ideas which he would announce after visiting the USSR and listening to the opinions of the officials. These ideas revolved around reactivating the Security Council and expanding the participation in it with regard to the Middle East question. However, the secretary general again affirmed that the United States and Israel did not even agree to reactivating the Security Council and expanding the participation in it with regard to the Middle East question. Israel and the United States believe that the solution should come through separate deals between the Arabs and Israel. In other words, the Arab states should come one by one to the negotiating table with Israel away from the PLO.

Brothers: We must preserve our effective participation in international forums, especially the United Nations and its specialized agencies. We must also strive to strengthen our people's national rights by developing the resolutions of the international community in this regard. This action constitutes an important part of our general activity to isolate Israel and its ally, the United States, in international forums.

Our Current Tasks on the Palestinian National Level

National unity continues to be the Palestinian revolution's main preoccupation despite all the difficulties and obstacles placed on its path and all Arab interferences influences — hence our insistence on a Palestinian national dialogue and on continuing with it for many months so the PLO can overcome its crisis and the paralysis of its institutions. As we said, this dialogue culiminated in political and organizational accord in the Aden-Algiers agreement which was signed on 13 June. The convocation of the 17th PNC session is an implementation of this agreement, which we are presenting to you for discussion despite the absence of some of the Palestinian sides which signed and which, we are sorry, are absent from this council to discuss what was agreed upon.

Despite all this, and after the end of the PNC session, we must continue to work for achieving complete national unity, taking into consideration the circumstances and the obstacles to our march. We have no doubt that your esteemed council shoulders an historic responsibility during these difficult circumstances toward overcoming the obstacles and achieving this objective.

Brothers, the convocation of this council was not a challenge to anyone, [applause] but a victory for the Palestinian will and progress toward national unity. The forces that are hostile to our people have wagered on not convening this council and on the PLO's impotence to accomplish this task. We realize that the unity of guns is a basic factor for achieving national unity. However, our people's will and unanimity are the live expression and the real embodiment of national unity. [applause] We will work in the future for achieving the maximum possible Palestinian consensus under the banner of the PLO and on the basis of what is approved by its legitimate institutions. If the Palestinian revolution's current major task is the liberation of our occupied homeland, then this requires that we escalate armed struggle, develop its methods, and bolster the popular and political struggle inside the occupied territories. The reactivation of the Palestinian national front inside the occupied homeland on the basis of our PNC's resolutions and political program will inevitably push the Palestinian struggle forward. This front must include the widest popular sectors and all the nationalist forces opposed to occupation. We are fully aware that reinforcing Palestinian national unity will reflect positively on the structure and effectiveness of the national front. To achieve this obejctive in a practical manner, we must provide our kinfolk and our institutions in the occupied territory with the requirements of support and steadfastness in accordance with a detailed and comprehensive program that takes into consideration past experience and benefits from its negative and positive points.

The committees stemming from this council should draw up guidelines for the coming PLO Executive Committee whose major responsibility will be drawing up such a plan that must rise to the level of our people's sufferings and the challenges to them. In this regard, importance must be attached to the health, educational, social, and economic fields in order to prevent Israel from containing the occupied Palestinian territories. Undoubtedly, the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee has an important role in achieving these requirements. At the same time, among our urgent tasks will be providing this committee with the necessary funds to bolster steadfastness and protect the land.

Our Current Tasks on the Arab Level

In this report we have briefed you on the Arab situation, which lacks solidarity and joint action due to the persistence of differences among the Arab countries. We have also indicated the negative reflections of all this on our struggle and cause as well as on our relations with these regimes. Accordingly, one of our first tasks at this stage is to stop the deterioration of Arab relations and revive the spirit of solidarity and joint action on clear bases as stipulated by the Arab summit resolutions. The efforts we can exert in this respect are humble ones because, very regrettably, we were sometimes forced to be a party to differences with some Arab countries. We wished this did not happen. All sincere efforts must be pooled on the official and popular levels to overcome this Arab crisis, whose continuation poses grave dangers to our cause and nation.

The Iraqi-Iranian war requires a joint Arab effort to end it and enable valiant Iraq, with its brave army, to play its full pan-Arab role in rescuing Palestine. [applause] Moreover, the continuation of this war paralyzes the effectiveness of the Gulf states, threatens their security, and preoccupies them with other things than our cause. All of their political and economic energies and capabilities will then be mortgaged for the sake of protecting themselves from the dangers facing them, in addition to their fear of foreign intervention. We hope the Gulf states will employ all their capabilities and international relations to serve the Palestine question and support the PLO.

We must promote our relations with the national and progressive forces in Lebanon and continue to support the Lebanese people's struggle against the Israeli occupation and U.S. control. We must stand on the side of these people for the sake of preserving their security, sovereignty, independence, and Arabism. We must also cooperate with the Lebanese Government to protect the security and interests of our masses and Palestinian camps.

In this report we referred to our concept of the special and distinctive nature of Palestinian-Jordanian relations. In the light of this, we believe that one of our main tasks in the coming stage is to bolster these relations on all levels and organize them in a manner that serves our joint cause and our people's interest and that enables us to confront the Israeli dangers that are posed to us together. The task of bolstering the steadfastness of our kinfolk in the occupied territory makes it incumbent on us to cooperate and promote this cooperation to the highest level. Moreover, cooperation and coordination with fraternal Jordan in the political field are dictated by the nature of the stage for the sake of confronting the schemes of annexation, expansion, deportation, and an alternative homeland.

As for fraternal Egypt, whose absence has caused suffering to the Arab nation, we are required, as we have said, to discuss this matter in depth and at length in light of the new changes in the Egyptian and Arab arena in the hope that you will come out with resolutions by which the next PLO Executive Committee can be guided.

It is important here to mention our relations with the two Yemens. These are fraternal and developed relations. We will do our best to develop relations with the YAR in the interest of our Palestinian people and Arab nation. Close ties also link us to the PDRY. Our joint cooperation covers several areas that we will develop and deepen.

In North Africa Tunisia and Algeria are sincerely and fraternally standing on the side of the Palestinian revolution. Also, fraternal Tunisia hosted the PLO leadership [applause] and gave it free movement and work. To this end, Tunisia endured burdens and responsibilities entailed by our presence on its gracious land. We are dutybound to maintain and develop these fraternal relations because Tunisia also plays an important role in world politics and never hesitates to extend absolute support for the Palestine question.

As for fraternal Algeria, which extended significant support for our revolution since its inception, it has continued with this brotherly stand, welcomed our forces after leaving Beirut, hosted our prisoners after leaving the Ansar detention camp, and endured financial burden in supporting the Palestinian revolution. Moreover, it extended great support for us in the Palestinian dialogue and exerted strenuous efforts to make this dialogue succeed. We rely on valiant Algeria, which gave 1.5 million martyrs, in supporting our revolution and just struggle at all levels. We will do our utmost to maintain and develop these struggle relations.

We are also eager to maintain developing relations with Morocco. It has exerted great efforts in supporting the Palestinian issue in its capacity as chairman of the Jerusalem Committee. It has played an active role at international forums in supporting our just struggle. We will continue to develop and promote our relations with Morocco to achieve our pan-Arab objectives. We will also endeavor to deepen our relations with Sudan, Mauritania, and the other fraternal Arab countries in implementation of our policy that is eager to maintain Arab solidarity and joint Arab action. We maintain close relations with the GCC with the exception of Oman, which has not yet opened an office for us there. These fraternal countries, which host hundreds of thousands of our people and provide them with job opportunities and residence, extend significant financial support and important political backing to the PLO. I wish to specifically mention Saudi Arabia, which has always fulfilled its commitments and exerted important political and diplomatic efforts at the international level.

As for fraternal Kuwait, where hundreds of thousands of our people live and enjoy ample attention and care, it has always supported the PLO and spares no efforts at international forums and conferences and through its bilateral relations in supporting our cause and struggle. Moreover, the UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain have not hesitated in fulfilling their pan-Arab duty and have always extended every assistance and support for the PLO at all levels. We in the PLO are eager to maintain these fraternal relations with the GCC countries and we will do our utmost to maintain and develop these relations to benefit our common pan-Arab interests.

As for our task with fraternal Syria, it is actually arduous and difficult since all fraternal and friendly mediations with it have reached a deadend. We exerted special efforts to perhaps achieve a formula of understanding with Syria. We explained this at the beginning of our report. However, despite all this we realize the importance of our relations with Syria. This makes us very eager to express our willingness to resume the dialogue with it and exert more efforts to form a Palestinian-Syrian relationship on clear bases.

The International Arena

We must not disregard the importance of action in the international arena from our calculations. Our struggle against the Zionist enemy has well-known international dimensions. The socialist bloc, headed by the USSR, support us and we must maintain and develop these good relations in all fields. Coordination and cooperation with these countries is necessitated by our national interests. Moreover, the USSR's political and international weight is an effective, positive factor in supporting us, achieving just peace in our region so that our national rights are guaranteed, and in confronting the imperialist hegemonistic and unilateral policy.

We will develop our relations with the friendly PRC because this country plays an important and prominent role in international politics and has an unwavering principled stand toward the Palestine question. We should also give attention to the close ties we have with the ICO and nonaligned states which play an important role in international politics by effectively explaining and supporting our cause in the international forums. We view with great interest the African countries, which are considered a strategic dimension and a vital arena for the Palestine question

and the Arab issue in general. Cooperation with Africa should be seriously developed in all fields so that we can prevent Israel from returning to penetrate it.

As for the EEC states and the rest of the West European states, we are dutybound to concentrate on them in our political action due to these states' international impact and due to the fact that their security and interests are linked to the Arab region. We will also work for reviving the Arab-European states' stands toward the Arab issues, particularly the Palestine question.

As for Latin America, we should exert efforts to expand the number of friendly states that recognize the PLO. Efforts should be intensified with these states and peoples for the sake of promoting further understanding, cooperation, and promotion of the common interests they share with the Arab countries. It is known that Latin America embraces hundreds of thousands of Arab and Palestinian communities, which play an important role in these countries' political and economic life. Care should be given to these communities so that they can help promote these countries' policy in favor of our common issue.

Finally, brethren, our current political tasks on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels are not easy. They require us to exert continuous efforts and persevering action. However, brethren, our adherence to the rifle and insistence on armed struggle [applause] remain an inevitable path and a basic guarantee for the restoration of our national rights, the liberation of our territory, and the establishment of our independent state on our national soil under the PLO's leadership.

May God grant you success. It is a revolution until victory. [applause]

Council Discusses Report

JN261327 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Amman — In its session held today under Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, the PNC listened to speeches by a number of members within the framework of its discussion of the political report presented by the PLO Executive Committee.

The PNC members asserted the need to reinforce and deepen fraternal relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian people in a way that will guarantee a joint political moves within a joint understanding of the nature of the solutions that have been presented, in order to reach a suitable formula for moving on all levels on the basis of the Palestinian people's rights to return to their homeland and to establish their independent state on their national soil.

The PNC members asserted the special and distinguished relationship with Jordan and the cohesion that exists between the two people in their aspirations, pains, history, and fate. The PNC members praised His Majesty King Husayn's speech at the opening of the PNC session. They said that his majesty's speech was honest and clear.

The PNC members condemned the Syrian regime's attempt to seize the independent Palestinian decisionmaking, and to contain and impose hegemony over the PLO by interfering in the Palestinian affairs. They also attacked the Libyan regime and its frequent attempts, with the Syrian regime, to destroy Palestinian unity by supporting and financing the dissident movement.

The PNC members asserted the need to support both PLO unity and our kinfolk in the occupied Arab territories, as well as the need to reinforce their steadfastness in their confrontation of the Zionist occupation authorities' schemes. They reviewed Palestinian-Arab relations, the future of the Palestinian relations with Egypt, the Fes plan, and the Democratic and National Alliances' stands toward convening the PNC, and toward the PLO and its legitimate leadership.

The PNC today sent cables to Ilyas Sufani, Samir Ghawshah, Khalid 'Abd al-Majid, and Samih Abu Kuwayk informing them that more than 70 council members have asked the council to deprive them of their PNC memberships, and that they should come to participate in the meetings within 48 hours in order to discuss this matter. Thus, the PNC has sent cables to seven members to this respect. The PNC had sent similar cables to Ahmad Jibril, Fadl Shururu, and Riyad Sa'd.

The PNC session was recessed a short while ago. The PNC will resume its meetings at 1700 today.

Further Discussion

JN262005 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Amman — In its evening session today under Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih the PNC continued its discussion of the political report presented by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, the day before yesterday.

At the beginning of the meeting, the PNC speaker read a number of cables addressed to the PNC asserting support for the PLO and respect for its independent decisionmaking. A number of members delivered speeches in which they addressed a number of issues and developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas. The speeches asserted the need and importance of strengthening Jordanian-Palestinian relations on the basis of understanding and cooperation and built on joint views of the nature of the critical current stage and future moves.

The speeches also asserted the need to deepen cooperation and understanding with all Arab countries on the basis of mutual respect, non-interference in the PLO's internal affairs and maintaining the independent Palestinian decisionmaking. The PNC members explained that isolating Egypt is not in the interest of the Arab nation, pointing to Egypt's weight and effective role in the future .

The speeches condemned the Syrian regime's stand and continued attempts to interfere in the PLO's affairs and independent decisionmaking, its adoption of and support for the divisive movement, and its efforts to obstruct the legitimate Palestinian instituions. The PNC members recalled the Syrian regime's

collusion and its role in the massacres of Al-Za'tar, Al-Baddawi, and Nahr al-Barid, and in the siege of Tripoli.

The speeches emphasized the need to continue dialogue with all parties within the framework of the legitimate institutions to affirm Palestinian democracy within these institutions. The speeches noted the importance of resorting to reason and studying all proposed initiatives thoroughly, taking into consideration the political developments in the arena.

The PNC members said that holding this session in Amman is an assertion of the victory of the Palestinian will, and an indication of the independent Palestinian decisionmaking and of the legitimacy of Palestinian national institutions.

Reportage on Speeches by Other Delegates

Egyptian Delegate Address

NC240650 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Nov 84

[Text] Egypt has reaffirmed its support and backing for the Palestinian people. Egypt, furthermore, has expressed its absolute support for the PNC's historical gathering in Amman. This came in Egypt's address delivered by Mahmud Dabbur, People's Assembly deputy speaker and head of Egypt's delegation at the PNC meetings.

At the beginning of the speech, Dabbur conveyed President Husni Mubarak's greetings to and support for the PNC members. Dabbur then reviewed Egypt's tenacious stand in support of the national rights of the Palestinian people and Egypt's view of the Palestinian cause as the core of the struggle in the Middle East.

Continuing, Dabbur reiterated Egypt's principled stand condemning Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories, adding that Egypt will never accept the relinquishment of Jerusalem because it is Arab and will remain so. He reemphasized Egypt's support for the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Egypt's address was applauded by all the conferees.

Commenting on Egypt's speech, PNC speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih expressed admiration Egypt and for its leading Arab role.

Libyan Opposition Leader Address

JN261721 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Muhammad Yusuf al-Maqrith, representative of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya and head of the Libyan delegation to the 17th PNC session, has condemned the Libyan regime's practices against the Palestinian revolution. This came in a speech Al-Maqrith delivered at the PNC session at the Palace of Culture this morning.

The head of the Libyan delegation reviewed the Libyan regime's stands on the PLO and its support for those who took up arms against their brothers during the siege of Tripoli. He said the convocation of the council is clear proof of the failure of all hegemonistic attempts on the independent Palestinian decisionmaking and attempts to interfere in the affairs of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. He affirmed the Libyan people's stand of supporting the Palestinian people in their just struggle against the Zionist entity.

PFLP-GC Dissident Address

JN261811 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Brother Muhammad Abu Jabir, representative of the Provisional Command Committee of the PFLP-GC, made a speech at the PNC yesterday in which he strongly condemned the agentry of Ahmad Jibril and his men to the Syrian and Libyan regime. He described Jibril as a renegade mercenary who betrayed his people when he shelled the Palestinian camps of Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi in Tripoli, northern Lebanon, with Syrian and Libyan support with the aim of liquidating the PLO leadership and tarnishing the image of the Palestinian struggle in the world. Abu Jabir said he as well as a large number of officials, cadres, and fighters in the PFLP-GC have announced their rejection of trusteeship, hegemony, and containment and decided to support the Palestinian legitimacy and independent Palestinian national decisionmaking. He asked the PNC to expel Jibril and his men from the council on charges of treason.

KUWAIT

AL-ANBA' on GCC Ministers' Recommendations

GF261329 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0720 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Nov (WAKH) — According to press reports in Kuwait, the recommendations of the GCC foreign ministers have encompassed a comprehensive plan to tackle and combat terrorism which is seen as an impediment to the development of the Gulf countries and a threat to their internal situations.

Quoting well-informed Gulf sources, the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-ANBA'* said that while recommendations were prepared on the internal security of the GCC countries — which also includes plans for cooperation in this field — recommendations also were made on promoting the defensive capabilities of the GCC countries. These recommendations pertained to endorsement of a Gulf rapid deployment force and of a force to help Kuwait should it be subjected to hostile aggression. They also included coordination in various military fields starting with training and ending with the process of selecting military equipment in addition to matters leading to the unification of defensive forces in the long run in order to ensure that the security of the Gulf is the responsibility of its countries.

The sources went on to say that with regard to the Iraqi-Iranian war, nothing definite was concluded by the ministers with regard to what has been reported on a joint initiative. The ministers reviewed the situation in depth in order to seriously find any means through which a clear plan can be reached to end this war. The sources added that although the ministers realized that the situation remained unchanged they recommended efforts be continued toward the superpowers with the aim of attaining this goal and of holding contacts with them through diplomatic channels on what can be done to end this war. These sources did not rule out the possibility that the summit will adopt definite resolutions in this regard if the leaders find it to be sagacious to adopt a certain move. As for the Arab political issues, a recommendation was prepared on the continuation of efforts to cleanse the Arab atmosphere.

As for matters dealing with the upcoming Arab summit, these sources said that there was an inclination by Gulf sides calling for slowing down efforts to convene it because, if the summit convenes under the current differences, then this will lead to a serious schism in the Arab corpus which is undesireable. Moreover, this also applies to the issue of the amendment of the Arab League Charter, where it was believed that, following a study on this issue, it is better not to discuss it at present. This matter will be postponed until after circumstances become clear and will take place during an Arab meeting or under appropriate Arab conditions.

As for the return of Egypt to the Arab fold, these sources said that despite the willingness of some to have the Gulf countries discuss this issue during the next summit, the ministers preferred to leave a decision on this matter to the GCC leaders themselves so that they can adopt whatever steps they believe appropriate, with the knowledge that during the discussion none of the ministers was opposed to the return of Egypt.

As for Palestinian internal affairs, they are the responsibility of the Palestinians with regard to the PLO or its leadership. The Gulf countries maintain a constant position of support for the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people and back everything that leads to the unity of Palestinian action and support the issue under the PLO leadership. This was emphasized by the ministers in their meeting.

As for financial support for the Sultanate of Oman and the state of Bahrain, a recommendation in this regard was adopted. This aid deals with development and implementation of defensive plans in accordance with what was agreed upon by the GCC countries. This aid is paid in installments in accordance with the implementation of joint projects. The sums are neither defined nor linked to any conditions.

The sources said that with regard to the implementation of some of the articles on the economic agreement — particularly those dealing with standardization of the prices of services such as electricity, water, and telephone — further study is being done in order to endorse and execute them. There is also a recommendation dealing with a railway, highways, and pipelines whereby the next summit will adopt resolutions in this regard. There are also other issues in this regard.

OMAN

PRC Minister Arrives, Meets Officials

GF261503 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Fahd ibn Mahmud al Bu Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, received at noon today Zou Yu, PRC minister of justice. The meeting was attended on the Omani side by Hilal ibn Hamad Al Bu Sa'idi, minister of justice, awqaf and Islamic affairs, and on the PRC side by the members of the delegation accompanying the PRC justice minister and the PRC ambassador to Oman.

During the meeting a comprehensive discussion was held on the good bilateral relations between the Sultanate and the PRC, and ways to strengthen them in various fields. During the meeting the guest stated that he is carrying the greetings of the PRC Government and people to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, and his wise government and the Omani people. He lauded the wise policy of his majesty and the developments in various fields achieved by the Sultanate thanks to this policy. He stated that the Omani experiment, led by his majesty the leader of the country and which was able to develop the country in such a short time, is a subject of appreciation and respect.

Fahd Al Bu Sa'id expressed his appreciation for the good sentiments expressed by the PRC justice minister toward the Sultanate and its sage leadership. He also expressed the interest and appreciation of his majesty's government for the friendship relations between the two countries. He lauded the positive and moderate policy adopted by the PRC in its dealings with international society and in its endeavors to strengthen its relations with the developing countries on the basis of mutual respect.

The PRC justice minister and accompanying delegation arrived in the country this morning on a 6-day official visit to the Sultanate. The PRC minister made a statement to a radio correspondent in which he said that his visit to the Sultanate will strengthen the friendship relations between the two countries and fortify relations with the officials responsible for justice affairs in both countries. He added that his talks with the officials will deal with the method of cooperation in justice affairs between the two friendly countries. In reply to a question on the relations between the Sultanate and PRC he said: Their relations are friendly, and the officials in my country are totally confident that these relations will develop further in the political, economic, and justice affairs fields.

The PRC justice minister and accompanying delegation were received at the airport by Hilal ibn Hamad Al Bu Sa'idi, minister of justice, awqaf and Islamic affairs, the PRC ambassador to the Sultanate, and a number of officials at the Ministry of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

QATAR

Foreign Minister on Superpower Intervention

GF261801 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 26 Nov 84 p 7

[Interview with Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, foreign minister, by *'UMAN* correspondent Salim ibn Rashid — place, date not given]

[Excerpt] Question: The superpowers are looking forward to intervening in our region in order to protect their interests in the region by exploiting the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war. Are there new efforts being exerted by the GCC countries to keep the region free from foreign intervention?

Answer: Our efforts are being resumed in this regard. As I said before, the achievement of our economic and military integration and our self-reliance in defending the region is our best means to repulse threats of foreign intervention. The Gulf region is a vital region for the whole world. With our efforts and with coordination with other GCC fraternal countries, we desire to keep this region safe and stable and turn it into a region of peace and stability, since it has a firm connection with the peace and stability of the whole world. We desire any direction which would protect the region and keep it away from tension and instability, which the foreign forces are trying to exploit in order to penetrate our region.

SAUDI ARABIA

Riyadh Reports Resumption of U.S.-Iraq Ties

LD262316 Riyadh SPA in English 1924 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Washington, Nov 26, (SPA) — The U.S. and Iraq have decided to resume diplomatic relations after a break of 17 years, the White House announced here today. Iraqi severed its diplomatic ties with Washington in 1967 in protest against the U.S. backing to Israel in its war against the Arabs.

UK Paper's 'Assassination Attempt' Reports Refuted

LD270951 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0710 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Nov (SPA) — The 4 November British paper *THE OBSERVER* published a fabricated, groundless story claiming an attempted assassination against Shaykh Shams ad-Din al-Fassi, a relation of His Royal Highness Prince Turki ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, and linking His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of the interior, as party to it.

Commenting on further concocted groundless comments and lies about His Royal Highness Prince Turki ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, published by the paper on Sunday, 25 November, an official source at the Royal Court said that despite the Kingdom's displeasure at what was published by *THE OBSERVER*, the Kingdom's official quarters made no immediate reply in the hope that the newspaper would check what it publishes. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, while denouncing and regretting what the aforementioned newspaper published, challenges the newspaper to provide any documents proving what reporter Michael Gillard wrote about the assassination attempt or the names of the Saudis who mentioned to reporter Patrick Seale details about Prince Turki ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his family.

The official source categorically refutes the interpretations written in the paper: No authority has been given by officials in the Kingdom to anyone entitling him to offer such reports. The denial by the official source affirms the categoric denial of the Kingdom of the existence of any participation by an official in the Kingdom in the assassination attempt referred to in the newspaper because His Royal Highness Prince Turki ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz enjoys the trust, affection and the esteem of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, just as he also enjoys the affections and the respect of every citizen in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, some newspapers have reported that Saudi citizen Ibrahim al-Rawwaf has been summoned for questioning and to receive his punishment.

Foreign Minister on Talk With Syrian Counterpart

GF261627 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 22 Nov 84 p 1

["Dialogue" with Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi Arabian foreign minister, by *AL-QABAS* correspondent Husayn 'Abd al-Rahman in Kuwait on 21 November]

[Excerpts] It was 1100 local time yesterday when the GCC foreign ministers were leaving their special wing at the Hyatt Regency Hotel for the conference hall. In the short distance between the hotel entrance hall and the conference hall entrance, which is not more than 200 meters, *AL-QABAS* held a walking dialogue with Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal and Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf al-'Alawi. At a speed concurrent with their strides, the following dialogue was conducted.

[Husayn 'Abd al-Rahman] Just before reaching the escalators, has a Gulf delegation been formed to visit Tehran on putting an end to the Iraqi-Iranian war?

[Sa'ud al-Faysal] Up to now no such Gulf delegation has been formed. However, our GCC brothers are exerting efforts toward putting an end to the Iraqi-Iranian war.

[Al-Rahman] What did Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' offer during your meeting with him after he returned from Tehran?

[Al-Faysal] He laughed and said: This is a big secret. If I told you, everything would be revealed.

Foreign Ministry Denies Statement

GF261751 Jeddah Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] A responsible Foreign Ministry source has stated that the Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS* issued on 22 November carried an alleged statement made to an *AL-QABAS* correspondent by Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal on his meeting with the Syrian foreign minister. He said that the ministry denies, wholly and word by word, what the paper published in this regard. The source stressed that the foreign minister did not make such a statement to an *AL-QABAS* correspondent or anybody else, and it is regretted that such information was portrayed in the manner reported by the paper.

PDRY

Foreign Minister Returns From Romania

GF262002 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, returned to Aden today. He led a party delegation which participated in the works of the 13th conference of the Romanian Communist Party, which convened from 19 to 23 November.

During his stay in Bucharest, Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali last Saturday met with the secretary of the Central Committee of the International Relations Committee of the Romanian Communist Party. They reviewed the relations between the two parties. They affirmed the importance of developing these relations for the benefit of the two parties and the two countries, and progress and socialism in the world. Brother al-Dali congratulated him on the success of the work of the 13th conference of the Romanian Communist Party. He wished more successes for the building of the progressive socialism.

Brother al-Dali last Saturday met with the Romanian minister of foreign trade. They discussed bilateral trade and economic relations, and the means for promoting them between the friendly countries.

He stopped over in Damascus and met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. During the meeting they discussed the stands of the two countries toward the important developments in the Arab and international arenas. They affirmed the importance of joint coordination of stands of the two countries in confronting the U.S. imperialist and Zionist plots in the region. They also discussed the fraternal developing relations and means of enhancing and promoting them for the benefit of the two peoples in social and peaceful progress.

He also held a number of meetings with the leaders of the Palestinian revolution factions in Damascus. He was received by 'Ali 'Asad Mhana, member of the YSP Central Committee, secretary of the YSP Central Committee, director of the Secretary General'sOffice; and Brother Muhammad 'Ali 'Anayah, deputy foreign minister; and a number of officials at the Foreign Ministry.

YAR

PRC Official Received by Prime Minister

GF261836 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, today received PRC Vice Minister of Culture Zhou Weizhi who is currently visiting our country. During the meeting they discussed bilateral relations and cultural cooperation between the two friendly countries. The meeting was attended by Brother Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, minister of information and culture, and the PRC charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Reportage on Visit of Hungary's Jozsef Marjai

Mubarak Receives Hungary's Marjai

NC261131 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1108 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received at Al-'Urubah Palace this morning Jozsef Marjai, deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers for Economic affairs. Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id, minister of economy and foreign trade; and Erno Simonyi, Hungarian ambassador in Cairo, attended the meeting.

Marjai Discusses Cooperation Opportunities

NC261420 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA) — After meeting with President Husni Mubarak this morning, Jozsef Marjai, deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers for Economic Affairs, stated that his talks with the president were friendly and cordial and will be beneficial for the future of Egyptian-Hungarian relations. He said: We highly appreciate President Mubarak who supports the promotion of relations and cooperation between us.

The Hungarian deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers praised Egypt's economic policy and said that it is very similar to Hungarian economic policy, which seeks to be independent. He said that this similarity offers many opportunities for bilateral cooperation.

The Hungarian official said that there are many areas for joint Egyptian-Hungarian production, such as the establishment of certain industries and joint companies. He added that there are numerous opportunities for bilateral cooperation in the agriculture and food industries' area.

Joint Projects Discussed

NC261433 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1403 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA) — Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, minister of planning and international cooperation, today met with Jozsef Marjai, deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers for economic affairs, and the delegation accompanying him. They discussed ways to bolster and promote bilateral economic and technical cooperation in various fields. They also discussed the possibility of Hungary's participating in a number of joint projects which could benefit from Hungary's technical expertise.

Reportage on Visit of Iraqi Trade Minister

Mubarak Receives Hasan 'Ali

NC261100 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received at Al-'Urubah Palace this morning Iraqi Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali, who arrived in Cairo yesterday on a 4-day visit. Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id, minister of economy and foreign trade, attended the meeting.

Al-Sa'id Discusses Relations

NC261609 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA) — In a statement he made after President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's meeting with Iraqi trade minister Hasan 'Ali today, economy and foreign trade minister Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id said that the discussions during the meeting dealt with trade relations as well as with increasing the volume of trade between the two countries from $70 million to [figure indistinct]. Dr al-Sa'id added that the discussions also dealt with financial matters and [money] transfers by Egyptians working in Iraq and how to ensure that these transfers are made through official banking channels. The subject of social security for the Egyptians working in Iraq and the issue of dual taxation were also discussed.

Dr al-Sa'id emphasized that the Egyptian-Iraqi relations are constantly improving and expanding to include all trade, economic, and financial fields.

Replying to a question about the transfers by the Egyptians working in Iraq, Dr al-Sa'id said that the volume of these transfers is difficult to estimate because they are made through numerous channels but that they total not less than [figure indistinct] annually.

The minister pointed out that an agreement exists for these transfers to be made through the Al-Rafidayn Bank in Iraq and the Alexandria Bank in Egypt as well as through the Arab-African bank. He also pointed out that the Egyptians working in Iraq have complete freedom in transfering their money either in foreign currency or in the Egyptian pound at prices to be agreed upon so that these transfers may flow without restrictions.

Referring to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's meeting today with Jozsef Marjai, deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers for economic affairs, Dr al-Sa'd said that the discussions during the meeting centered on increasing Egyptian exports to Hungary to balance them with its imports. He said that these exports involve textiles, yarn, medicinal herbs, and aluminum.

Trade Talks Begin

NC261632 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA) — Egyptian-Iraqi trade and economic talks began today under the co-chairmanship of Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id, minister of economy and foreign trade, and Hasan 'Ali, Iraqi minister of trade and member of the Iraqi Revolution Council, who is now visiting Cairo.

During the discussions, an agreement was reached on concluding an equally beneficial deal between the two countries that will increase the volume of trade exchange to $100 million, to be shared equally between the two countries, in addition to $3 million for the Egyptian commercial center in Baghdad and $3 million for the Iraqi commercial center in Cairo.

This deal will involve the importation by Egypt of raw sulfur, cement, phosphate, hides, florescent [as received] and dates; and

the exportation to Iraq of raw cotton, cotton yarn, textiles, ready-made clothes, tires, medicines, medical necessities, and aluminum.

After the talks, the Iraqi trade minister said that this deal is an expression of the strong fraternal ties between the Egyptian and Iraqi peoples, that it constitutes the beginning of further economic cooperation expected to develop between the two countries.

Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id said that this deal represents a minimum trade exchange between Egypt and Iraq that can be increased through the public and private sectors, in addition to what has been agreed upon through the deal.

The discussions dealt with ways to facilitate the transfer of savings of Egyptians working in Iraq through the existing banking arrangements between the Iraqi Al-Rafidayn Bank and the Alexandria Bank in Egypt.

Mubarak Congratulates Romanian President Ceausescu

NC251350 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has sent the following congratulatory cable to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu on his reelection as secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party:

I have the pleasure to send Your Excellency my most heartfelt congratulations on the precious confidence your friendly people have given you by reelecting you as secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party for 5 more years.

I convey to you most sincere wishes for success in the performance of your eminent duty for the welfare of the friendly Romanian people. On this happy occasion, I would like to extol your positive role in serving the causes of international security and peace, hoping that the joint efforts we are exerting will produce positive results in seeking just and lasting solutions to the current problems, particularly the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Your Excellency Mr President, please accept my wishes of progress and prosperity for your friendly people.

AL-AKHBAR Welcomes Restoration of U.S.-Iraqi Ties

NC270551 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA) — The Cairo paper *AL-AKHBAR*

welcomes the decision to restore diplomatic relations between Baghdad and Washington after a 17-year rupture. It expresses the hope that this step will lead to an end to the Iraqi-Iranian war.

In its editorial in its Tuesday issue, the paper says that the major effect of the restoration of relations between the two countries will be in U.S. political and economic pressures exerted to end the Gulf war in its capacity as a great power. It will also stop the secret or overt export of U.S. weapons to the Tehran regime. The United States has contributed to the prolongation of this war as a result of the accumulation of U.S. weapons in Iran's arsenals since the rule of the shah and continued secret sale by the United States of weapons to Iran.

The paper points out that Iraq, which has seriously started examining its position in the international arena, wants to assert its position of seeking peace after having accepted all the initiatives to end the Gulf war. The paper believes that the resumption of relations between Baghdad and Washington might motivate the United States to try to support the initiative expected to be announced during the GCC summit, which starts in Kuwait tomorrow, and supported by the EEC. U.S. support will increase the possibilities of its success.

Free World Urged To 'Exterminate' Al-Qadhdhafi

NC240713 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 24 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA) — The newspaper *AL-AHRAM* calls on the international community to confront leaders like Al-Qadhdhafi, who are not only playing havoc with the destiny of their people, but also threatening mankind by supporting and financing international terrorism.

In today's editorial, the paper says that undoubtedly Al-Qadhdhafi is not only involved in international terrorism, but is also one of its financers. The paper, in this regard, cites many free Libyan politicians as saying that Al-Qadhdhafi has, according to all legal norms, become an international criminal. Hence, the paper adds, it behooves the free world to exterminate him.

Concluding its editorial, *AL-AHRAM* says that the task to wipe out terrorism will only succeed when all peace-loving forces in the free world unite their ranks and formulate a well-studied plan to discard rulers like Al-Qadhdhafi, to isolate terrorist regimes, and to boycott governments which build their policies on the principle of terrorism, even if these governments are UN members.

AL-AHRAM Discusses Amman PNC Meeting

PM251400 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition in Arabic 23 Nov 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Putting the Matter to the Palestinian People"]

[Excerpts] There is no doubt that the PNC meeting enjoys the strong majority of the people in the occupied territories. For this reason, the Arab people that rally around the Palestinian struggle have supported the convening of the PNC with the same degree of support as shown by the Arab countries, with the exception of Libya and Syria, that are in favor of Amman meeting, which is taking place at the invitation of the PLO political leadership.

In fact disputes should not prevent the participation of the Palestinian factions in PNC meetings. The multiplicity of views within the PLO has been one of the characteristics of its function, just as consensus has been a basic condition for PNC resolutions and policies, although the latter condition has led to an impractical situation described as a "paralyzed agreement." Although

there were differences during the 16th PNC session in Algeris, the Council was able to come out with resolutions that represented the minimum upon which the organizations within the PLO could agree. These resolutions will remain effective until a new situation emerges. Nobody turned his back on these resolutions except those who have chosen to submit to Syria's policy, which wants to monopolize Palestinian decisionmaking so as to exploit it in serving its ends. Those who did so have gone as far as carrying arms against the legitimate leadership, as happened in Tripoli in northern Lebanon.

By convening the PNC, Yasir 'Arafat has put the matter to the Palestinian people, so that they will express their views on the disputes and define the course of the coming stage, by restructuring the PLO institutions while continuing efforts to unify the Palestinian ranks so that a new and decisive stage of struggle will be launched.

If we look at the dispute itself we will find that, in the final analysis, it is due to the invasion of Lebanon and the PLO's views of Syria's role, Syria being always regarded as the strategic ally even during the time the call for convening the PNC was being made. We will also find that the reasons given by the other factions in justifying their stands are groundless. The PLO leadership did not take any action contrary to its commitments under the resolutions of the Algiers session. The principal resolutions were:

Endorsement of the Arab peace plan (Fes plan) as being the minimum basis for political action by the PLO.

The Reagan plan does not meet the Palestinian people's aspiration or accord with their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

The Soviet (Brezhnev) initiative is suitable as a framework for negotiations. In addition to correctly interpreting the UN resolution, the initiative calls for convening an international conference on the Middle East which is no different from the Arab demand from the beginning.

The confirmation of the distinctive relationship between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples, and the need to develop it in the interest of both peoples and the Arab nation, as well as for the sake of achieving the inalienable national rights, particularly the right to return, to self-determination, and to the establishment of an independent state with future relations to be based on confederal ties between the two states.

This goes to show that the dispute is not related to the essence of the matter. The Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue is desired for reasons that need no explaining. Also nothing new has developed in the conditions governing political action whether with regard to the Fes plan or a peace conference. Nevertheless, 'Arafat, in his capacity as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and leader of Fatah, the largest resistance organization, has resorted to all means to resolve the political dispute with the Democratic Alliance, which includes the PFLP and the DFLP led by George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah respectively. Despite the signing of the "Aden and Algiers agreement" with this alliance, the convening of the PNC was hindered for well-known reasons until the Political Command decided to confront all the resistance factions with their historical responsibilities.

Those who wish to cause division can do what they like, for there will be no place for them in the Palestinian, Arab, or international reality, and those who care for the unity of ranks should join the march so that the Palestinian people will give their final say in the matter.

Briefs

New Envoy From Pakistan — Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA) — The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt has approved the nomination of His Excellency 'Aziz Ahmad Khan as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Cairo. [Text][*Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Nov 84 NC*]

Reportage on Resumption of Relations With U.S.

Text of Joint Declaration

JN261755 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA) — The resumption of diplomatic relations between Iraq and the United States was announced here tonight. A joint declaration said that the Governments of Iraq and the United States have agreed to resume diplomatic relations as of today. It indicates that this agreement was reached during the meeting held in Washington today between the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Tariq 'Aziz, and U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

The joint declaration says that the two countries' missions will as of today be called embassies instead of sections in charge of looking after their interests. The two senior officials working in them will be called charges d'affaires until ambassadors are appointed.

In their declaration the two countries said that their two ambassadors will be appointed as soon as possible in accordance with the two countries' nominations.

The following is the text of the joint declaration on the resumption of diplomatic relations between Iraq and the United States of America:

The Governments of Iraq and the United States of America have agreed to resume diplomatic relations as of today, 26 November 1984. This agreement was reached between Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and President Ronald Reagan. The missions between the two countries shall be called embassies instead of sections looking after one another's interests as of this day. The two senior officials shall be called charges d'affaires until ambassadors are appointed. The ambassadors shall be appointed as soon as possible in accordance with the two countries' systems of nomination.

Earlier this morning Tariq 'Aziz met with U.S. Vice President George Bush and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. They discussed bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and issues of mutual interest.

The meetings were attended by 'Ismat Kittani, Foreign Ministry first under secretary, and Nizar al-Shimal, Iraqi charge d'affaires in Washington. It was attended on the U.S. side by Robert McFarlane, the U.S. President's adviser for national security affairs; Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs; and David Newton, U.S. charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Following the second round of talks with Secretary of State George Shultz, Tariq 'Aziz told journalists in the White House that he conveyed to to President Ronald Reagan a verbal message from President Saddam Husayn expressing Iraq's desire to establish normal and cordial relations with the United States.

'Aziz added: I also met with Vice President George Bush and Secretary of State George Shultz and held cordial and constructive talks with them. He said: Several contacts were held between our two countries during the past period, and these contacts took place in an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding. Iraq, he added, which believes in establishing normal and balanced relations with all countries of the world, has for some time been eager to establish full diplomatic relations with the United States in a healthy atmosphere and on understandable bases. I believe that contacts between the two governments have contributed toward attaining this goal. Therefore, I informed President Ronald Reagan on behalf of my government that Iraq believes the time is appropriate now to establish full diplomatic relations between our two countries.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister added: Accordingly, we decided to resume diplomatic relations between Iraq and the United States as of today. He continued: I held cordial talks with President Reagan this morning and I believe that this meeting is an important step toward bolstering mutual understanding between our two countries, because the political dialogue that is based on principles of frankness and equality increases the chances of cooperation in all fields.

He stressed that Iraq, which takes pride in its independent policy based on the principles of equality, mutual understanding, and nonalignment, is eager to bolster its relations of friendship and cooperation with others in the service of their common interests.

He added: I expressed to President Reagan Iraq's interest in building positive and fruitful relations with the United States in order to provide opportunities for (?peace) and security in our region and the world at large. On our side we are eager to see continuous progress in all fields of cooperation between our two countries.

'Aziz said: I can say that an atmosphere of frankness and [word indistinct] permeated our talks with President Reagan and the U.S. officials. I believe that this will bring mutual benefit to our two countries and peoples.

'Aziz Talks With Officials

LD262334 Kuwait KUNA in English 1813 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Washington, Nov 26 (KUNA) — The United States and Iraq officially resumed diplomatic relations here Monday but both sides emphasized that the move did not signal any change in their respective positions towards the Gulf conflict.

The official announcement here followed a one-hour meeting between the visiting Iraqi deputy premier and foreign minister, Tariq 'Aziz, with President Ronald Reagan, Vice President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz, and other Iraqi and American officials.

"The Governments of the United States and Iraq have agreed to resume diplomatic relations, effective today," said the official announcement by White House Press Secretary Larry Speakes.

"This agreement was concluded today between President Reagan and deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Iraq, Tariq 'Aziz.

"The two countries' diplomatic missions are upgraded as of this datae from interest sections to embassies, and their principal officers will hold the title of charge d'affaires, pending the appointment of ambassadors.

"Ambassadors will be appointed as promptly as possible under the nomination processes required within and between both countries," the statement concluded.

At the White House talks, 'Aziz was accompanied by the Under Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ismat Kittani and the head of the Iraqi Interest Section in Washington, Nizar Hamdun, who is tipped to be appointed Iraqi ambassador here. 'Aziz first met for nearly half an hour with Vice President Bush and Secretary of State George Shultz. The group from both sides then met with President Reagan for nearly half an hour at the Oval Office. A notable absentee from the talks was Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger.

'Aziz was later in the afternoon expected to attend a brief ceremony in front of the new Iraqi Embassy to raise the Iraqi flag in the American capital. He has scheduled a series of meetings with top administration officials until Thursday when his official visit ends.

A senior American official, speaking to newsmen on background after the White House talks, described the resumption of diplomatic relations as a positive step, but noted that "it reflects the de-facto normalization of dialogue going on since 1972, when the U.S. opened an interest-section in Baghdad."

"It is a positive development, which is the result of patient efforts over a number of years," the senior official, who is specialized in Middle East affairs, said.

But he was quick to emphasize that the media should not in any way read much in the move and he stressed that there will be no change in the official positions of the two countries on the various issues involved.

The Iraqi position was expected to be outlined by 'Aziz later Monday when he meets with the Arab press in Washington.

"It spells no change in the neutrality of the United States towards the Iran-Iraq war," the official emphasized.

He also emphasized that the American move was not in any way directed against either Iran or Israel as had been speculated in the American press over the last few days.

The senior American official repeatedly stressed, "the resumption implies not mutual endorsement of domestic and foreign policies of the two respective countries."

He added, "Our neutrality continues in the war. We want to see an early end of the conflict. There is no tilt towards Baghdad. This would be a misrepresentation of the facts." In reply to a question, the senior American official stressed that the United States has not sent any arms to the combatants in the war "and there is no prospect of our changing our arms supply policy."

On the Palestine question, the senior official noted, Iraq said publicly that it will accept any solution that is acceptable to the Palestinians.

Asked further about whether the diplomatic move was aimed at Iran, the senior American official stressed that this was not the case.

He then announced that the Reagan administration "is ready today to discuss improved relations (with Iran)."

But he cited two conditions that should be met before that could take place: First, Iran has to cease its support for international terrorism and it has to announce its acceptance of a negotiated settlement with Iraq.

In reply to a question on the three pipelines that Iraq has said it was planning to construct, the senior American official noted that in fact there are only two pipelines being pursued by the Iraqis at present.

One is the pipeline to the Red Sea via Saudi Arabia and the other to the Mediterranean via Turkey. He disclosed that Iraq appears at present to have frozen the idea of a third pipeline via Jordan.

Asked about the reason, the American official admitted that one of the main reasons is that the Iraqis are afraid that Israel might bomb the pipeline.

On another issue, the senior American official said the Iraqis were "appreciative" of the fact that the United States has sought over the last year to "choke off" the supply of spare parts to the Iran military from America's allies.

"Iraq has seen the effect of this through the steady deterioration of the Iranian war effort," the official said. "For us, it is an ongoing process and the Iraqis, of course, want us to [word indistinct] this effort. They did not need diplomatic relations to be resumed for that to continue happening."

'Aziz Addresses Embassy Celebration

JN270823 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0736 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Washington, 27 Nov (INA) — The Iraqi flag was hoisted over the Iraqi Embassy building in Washington today following yesterday's resumption of relations between Iraq and the United States.

The hoisting ceremony was attended on the Iraqi side by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Ismat Kittani, first Foreign Ministry under secretary; and the Iraqi charge d'affaires and embassy staff. It was attended on the U.S. side by Michael Armacost, under secretary of state for political affairs; Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs; and the chief of protocol at the U.S. State Department.

In a speech on the occasion, Tariq 'Aziz expressed his satisfaction with the resumption of diplomatic relations with the United States. He said: I held talks with U.S. President Ronald

Reagan, Vice President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz, and other U.S. officials, and we agreed to resume full diplomatic relations between Iraq and the United States on the basis of mutual understanding and respect between the two states. He expressed his gratitude to the Indian Government, which had been in charge of Iraqi Government's interests in Washington for 17 years. 'Aziz pointed out that the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Washington will be Iraq's ambassador in Washington until a new ambassador is appointed.

The Iraqi ambassador-designate, Nizar Hamdun, said that his government will continue to maintain stable, balanced foreign relations that are based on the principles of peace, justice, and mutual interests. In a speech on the occasion, Hamdun added that Iraq will remain a pioneer for progress and civilization and a basic pillar for peace and stability in the region.

Michael Armacost, U.S. under secretary of state for political affairs, expressed his satisfaction with the resumption of full diplomatic relations between Iraq and the United States. He affirmed that the results of Tariq 'Aziz' talks with the U.S. officials augurs a good beginning for the future of relations between the two countries.

President Receives Message From Saudi King

JN261218 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from his brother, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, dealing with bilateral relations and the situation in the region.

The message was delivered to President Saddam Husayn by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, Saudi education minister and personal envoy of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, when President Saddam Husayn received him today. The meeting was attended by the president's secretary.

Armed Forces Command Issues Communique No 1,662

JN261718 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Communique No 1,662 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 26 November 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With high readiness to confront the Iranian aggressors and crush their criminal aggression, the proud Iraqis are continuing their valiant jihad against the forces of the cliques of evil, rancor, and hatred ruling Iran.

The results of activities in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units engaged several selected enemy targets in the operational sector east of Basra with various types of weapons, destroying three infantry and weapons positions and killing or wounding several enemy troops.

2. Fleeing the persecution and terrorism of the clique of evil and aggression in Tehran, fresh groups of Iranian military men sought refuge with our forward units in the central sector of the operational theater. They were safely evacuated to the rear. Elsewhere in the same sector, one of our forward units pounded several enemy positions opposite our positions with artillery, scoring direct and effective hits.

3. One of our forward units fired on an enemy infantry position in the Maysan sector and managed to destroy it after hitting it accurately.

[Signed] The Armed Forces Geenral Command, 26 November 1984

Reportage on Reaction to Deaths of POW's in Iran

Committee Discusses POW Issue

JN261522 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Baghdad , 26 Nov (INA) — The secretariat of the follow-up committee stemming from the world conference on the serious effects of the Gulf war on world peace and security held its first meeting here today under the chairmanship of Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, the committee's secretary general. The conferees discussed the framework of the Arab and world movement at this stage with the aim of condemning the Iranian regime's crime of killing some Iraqi prisoners of war in front of a Red Cross mission.

Hammudi indicated the importance of launching a world campaign to explain the dimensions of this savage crime, as well as the aims of the Iranian aggression against Iraq and the real and direct dangers it poses to world peace and security.

Information Minister on POW's

JN261506 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1425 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA) — Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has asserted that the Iranian regime's ugly crime in killing a number of Iraqi POW's without deterrence will create a grave predicament in international and human relations.

At a news conference which he held here today and which was attended by a number of journalists and correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies and newspapers, the Iraqi minister explained the dangerous and difficult circumstances which Iraqi POW's are facing in Iran, pointing out the documents and reports presented by the International Committee of the Red Cross and other competent circles. He said: The hard treatment and practices from which Iraqi POW's are suffering must provoke public opinion and the humanitarian feelings of all good people in the world.

The Iraqi minister called on all media organs, intellectuals, and international organizations to expose the inhuman practices of the bloody regime in Iran, to deter it, and to impose legal sanctions on it.

'At the news conference, the Iraqi minister circulated two important and ominous documents on the tragic circumstances under which Iraqi POW's are living. One of them is by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the other was prepared on the basis of information obtained from Iraqi sources, from POW's who returned from Iran, and from Iranian refugees in Iraq.

Paris Embassy Statement
NC261841 Paris AFP in English 1827 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Paris, Nov 26 (AFP) — Iran has carried out "several massacres of Iraqi prisoners of war" since 1981, the Iraqi Embassy here said today.

A statement was published today to mark "Martyrs' Day," December 1, 1981, the first massacre, according to the embassy, when 1,500 Iraqis were "buried alive" at Bsaytine, in western Iran.

A further 60 Iraqis were injured in September, 1982, at the Heshmatieh prison camp in Tehran, and several dozens massacred at the Qouchan camp in north-east Iraq in February, 1983, during a protest, the statement said.

Two Iraqi prisoners were said to have been killed and several others tortured at the Caspian Sea camp of Sari in mid-1983 and 12 more killed in March the following year at Parandak camp in a Tehran suburb.

The statement also lists the "massacre" of six Iraqi soldiers last October 10, at the Gorkan camp, north-east Iran, which led to "modest reactions" from Western bodies.

The embassy said Iraqi prisoners of war in Iran, 50,000 according to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), are split into 11 camps depending on religious beliefs.

They have been guarded since February 1982 by militia of the Iranian spiritual leader, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, and forced to wear the ayatollah's symbol.

Iranian authorities, who "refuse to communicate the list of prisoners to the ICRC," are putting pressure on Iraqi Christian prisoners to force them to become Shia Moslems, while the Iraqi Baathists are isolated and tortured, the embassy said.

The ayatollah is a Shi'ite, as are the majority in Iraq, but Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn is a Sunni in the ruling Ba'th Party.

Most Iraqi prisoners are not allowed to receive letters from relatives or to contact the Red Cross, the statement said.

AL-JUMHURIYAH on Iran's 'Aggressive Intentions'
JN241100 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 24 Nov 84

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Nov (INA) — The newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says that Iraq will not stop its violent blows to the Iranian enemy. They will continue until the Iranian rulers see reason and desist in their aggression.

In an editorial today, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* notes that the Iranian aggressors continue to harbor evil toward Iraq, its people, and its Armed Forces despite the relative calm on the front. It says the Iranian rulers' aggressive intentions have not changed, their rancor against the Iraqi people and Army has not ended, and their preparations to launch new aggression have not abated.

The paper points out that the Iranian rulers are hesitant about launching a new aggression out of fear of a new abject defeat. However, they are seeking a suitable opportunity to begin their aggression. The paper makes it clear that the Iranian rulers would not have hesitated had they not known the extent of Iraq's strength and readiness to defeat their aggression and turn it into a new Iranian disaster.

The paper says that, no matter how they try to maneuver and hesitate in order to delude and deceive, the aggressors will not find the loophole or the opportunity they are seeking. In conclusion, the paper affirms that any new aggression will result in complete destruction [words indistinct].

King Husayn Receives PNC Speaker Al-Sa'ih
JN261703 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn received PNC Speaker His Holiness Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih at the Royal Hashemite Court today. Shaykh al-Sa'ih gave his majesty a cable of gratitude, greeting, and appreciation in response to his majesty's congratulatory cable on his election as PNC speaker.

In a statement to PETRA-JNA, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that the discussions dealt with the formula His Majesty King Husayn proposed in his PNC opening ceremony speech to achieve the common interest, God willing. He said: The PNC will make a thorough study of the formula proposed by His Majesty King Husayn. He indicated that His Majesty King Husayn had asked him to convey his greetings to the PNC members.

Foreign Minister al-Masri Interviewed on PNC
JN262039 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1740 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Interview with Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Nabil Darwish in Amman on 26 November — recorded]

[(Text) [Darwish] Your Excellency: Since the first day of the PNC session, the PNC members' speeches have been concentrating on His Majesty King Husayn's opening speech in which he proposed a Jordanian-Palestinian initiative. Some PNC members believe that the conference must quickly answer yes or no to this initiative. Could Your Excellency explain the Jordanian position?

[Al-Masri] When his majesty the king delivered his speech, he meant it to be very clear. It was actually a speech that expressed the Jordanian Government's policy. We are aware of the current circumstances of the PLO and this PNC session. We want to communicate our concept to our Palestinian brothers. Interaction on these ideas will certainly occur within the PNC and the Palestinian leadership. By the way, these opinions are not quite new for our brothers in the PLO Executive Committee because they were generally aware of our way of thinking. Whoever follows up the PNC's deliberations will discover that some interaction on this initiative is taking place. We expect to hear something from the PNC. We do not expect a definite yes or no answer or a quick answer as some may think; but at a certain stage we must talk about this initiative with our brothers whether in the Palestinian leadership or the new Executive Committee, or with some leaders or the PNC itself. An answer will certainly come, but I do not mean to say that it will come tomorrow or the day after. Consultations about it must take place at some time.

[Darwish] If the answer comes as clearly as King Husayn's initiative, it must be a comprehensive one dealing with the overall initiative and not with one part of it.

[Al-Masri] That is correct. His majesty the king's opening speech should be read as a whole. One should not take some parts of it and comment on them without considering the other parts. The ideas of the speech are arranged sequentially and we hope that our Palestinian brothers will not take one part and leave out another. It should be viewed as an integral speech.

[Darwish] In their Arab and international talks or in their press statements, the Egyptian officials talked about or hinted at the need to undertake a joint Jordanian-Palestinian initiative. Was there any consultation between President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn before the Jordanian monarch proposed his initiative?

[Al-Masri] If you mean that there was consultation on the contents of the speech before it was delivered, I say no. There was no consultation. However, our Egyptian brothers are aware of our ideas and know that at a certain stage we must brief our Palestinian brothers on our concept. They were certainly not taken by surprise when they heard what his majesty the king proposed in his speech.

[Darwish] The Jordanian-Palestinian formula King Husayn proposed deals with two important points: Resolution No. 242, which was rejected by more than one Palestinian side, and the international conference. There is almost Arab unanimity on agreeing to an international conference. However, if an international conference was rejected and if the United States insisted on rejecting it, would there be an alternative?

[Al-Masri] In fact, the real alternative to all these matters is Arab solidarity. Solidarity leads to a unified Arab policy and this will make all states, particularly the United States, accept the Arab policy. We asked for an international conference because Resolution 242 does not speak about the Palestinian people's rights. It speaks about firm principles and about Israel's withdrawal. We believe that the international conference should include the PLO as a directly concerned party that should sit at the negotiating table on the same level of the other parties and delegations, that is, on an equal footing. Thus, what Resolution 242 lacks is complemented by the presence of the PLO as a separate and concerned party to the international conference. In fact, we cannot find a definite answer to the question of an alternative to an international conference.

Before the international conference was suggested there were several proposals by the Soviets, Europeans, and Americans. However, none of them was adopted. Then the Arab countries presented their plan at the Fes summit. We cannot definitely say what the alternative for the international conference is, but I can stress that we in Jordan will always try to knock on doors in order to find an honorable solution. If an international conference is not convened, we will try other things. But actually, the real alternative is Arab solidarity and accord.

[Darwish] Could there be a Jordanian-Palestinian initiative, for instance, aimed at calling for an Arab summit to discuss this subject as well as the important and serious subject of Egypt's return to the Arab fold before you embark on a political initiative?

[Al-Masri] We certainly have this in mind. We also believe it is in the minds of our PLO brothers. As his majesty the king said in his speech, the cornerstone in the search for a solution to the

Palestine question and the Middle East issue is Jordanian-Palestinian understanding. Once we reach such an understanding, there will certainly be an Arab understanding. Hence, we will all proceed from this understanding to the international forums, be they the United States, the Soviet Union, or the United Nations itself.

[Darwish] Let us suppose that the new PLO Executive Committee that will be elected in 2 or 3 days will meet with you and say: We agree to the entire initiative. Will the pattern of current relations between Jordan and the PLO change? In other words: Will jordan be the headquarters of several Palestinian institutions?

[Al-Masri] If this supposition takes place, the jordanian- Palestinian relationship will certainly take a new course. As you may have noted in his majesty the king's speech and in the statements of all Jordanian officials on Jordanian-Palestinian relations and their importance, we in Jordan are ready to discuss all that is entailed by this new relationship.

[Darwish] Many link the restoration of Jordanian-Egyptian relations to the deterioration or lukewarmness of Jordanian-Syrian relations. How do you view the future of relations between Jordan and Syria?

[Al-Masri] In fact, jordan has a definite long-term strategy and we do not deal with events on a daily basis. We have a definite policy. Regarding Egypt. we have long been considering the need to restore Egypt to the Arab fold due to the change in conditions in Egypt and the Arab world. Regarding Syria, we do not seek to do anything against Syria. It is Syria which is attacking and accusing us, whereas we remain silent without replying to all this. Actually, there is no relationship between this and that. Relations with Syria have been tense for a long time. We are not responsible for this; it is due to our Syrian brothers. The status of the Jordanian-Egyptian relationship is not directly connected to the Jordanian- Syrian relationship.

[Darwish] There is also the Iraqi-Jordanian relationship. As we know, jordan has a distinctive geography; it is always encircled by problems. There is also the Iraqi-Iranian war. You have adopted a distinguished Arab stand since the beginning of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. What are your expectations regarding the future of the Iraqi-Iranian battlefront and do you think that a cease-fire will contribute to solving the other Middle East problems?

[Al-Masri] It seems to us and to all that the situation is unchanged on the Iraqi-Iranian front. There are some skirmishes, but Iran is incapable of launching a major offensive against Iraq. Skirmishes continue. Jordan has always adopted a clear and brave stand that has only one face toward Iraq out of conviction. All sides, including international and regional sides, have tried to dissuade the Iranians from their hostile plans against Iraq and to convice them to end the Iraqi-Iranian war, but in vain. It seems that this situation will continue into the future. However, we hope that Iran will respond to the Iraqi efforts to end this conflict in a manner that is acceptable to both sides.

In this regard, I must refer to some Iranian actions against Iraq, particularly what the Red cross said about the Iraqi prisoners in Iran, who exceed 50,000 prisoners, and the way they are treated. There is no doubt that those who read the Red Cross secretary general's report, which was frank and unbiased, will note how horrible the Iranian acts against the Iraqi prisoners are.

[Darwish] Where will the Jordanian diplomatic moves begin now on the international level? Will they begin from Moscow or Washington?

[Al-Masri] They will begin with parallel lines in all directions leading to Moscow, Washington, the United Nations, and Europe. But before anywhere else, to the Arab capitals and the Arab League.

[Darwish] will His Majesty King Husayn make any visits in the near future?

[Al-Masri] Yes, his majesty the king will visit Egypt shortly. There are plans for a visit to Moscow. His majesty will certainly visit his brothers in Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf states.

Briefs

Ambassador to Kuwait Transferred—A royal decree was issued approving the transfer of Jordanian Ambassador to Kuwait Salih al-Zu'bi to headquarters to occupy the post of Foreign Ministry secretary general. [Text] [*Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Nov 84 p 1 JN*]

Ambassadors Present Credentials -- His Majesty King Husayn today received the credentials of four new ambassadors accredited to the Royal Hashemite Court. He received respectively the credentials of UK Ambassador Arthur John Coles, Egyptian Ambassador Ihab Sa'id Wahbah, Hungarian Ambassador Zoltan Szephelyi, and Cuban Ambassador Hector Argiles Perez. [Excerpt][*Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Nov JN*]

'No Progress' Reported at Fifth Al-Naqurah Talks

NC261528 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Excerpts] The second round of the fifth session of the Al-Naqurah talks between the Lebanese and Israeli military delegations, held under UN auspices, ended 45 minutes ago. Our correspondent Antoine 'Awn filed the following report immediately after the conclusion of today's talks at 1515 today:

[Begin recording] The second round of the fifth session of the Al-Naqurah talks ended at about 1515 today. In brief, it is possible to say that no progress has so far been made in the talks. The Israeli delegation persisted in demanding to discuss certain matters on which there has been no decision, while Lebanon responded to the demand regarding the security of the northern Israeli settlements by dividing the security arrangements into two categories — one where there will be intensive security arrangements to a depth of 8 km from the border, and another where there will be less intensive security arrangements in the other areas.

In addition to what Lebanese official information revealed about Israeli maneuvers at the talks, new information given prior to the conclusion of the afternoon meeting said that the Israeli side is sidestepping existing UN resolutions and demanding to discuss certain matters on which there has been no decision. These matters are mere proposals which require the decision of authorities outside the framework of the talks. The Israeli delegation wants to discuss the expansion of the deployment of the UN forces — something that requires a resolution by the UN Security Council and the approval of the participant states — instead of discussing the application of the existing provisions of Resolution 425. The Israeli side prevented the implementation of this resolution when, on 13 June 1978, it prevented the UN forces from deploying in areas established in this resolution.

According to this information, the Lebanese delegation sought to move step-by-step, as the Israelis wanted. The first step, from Lebanon's standpoint, is implementation of Resolution 425, and then future plans can be discussed.

The final statement issued by UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel said that the military talks were resumed in Al-Naqurah between Lebanon and Israel under UN auspices. These talks are designed to discuss the security arrangements for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the south, Rashayya, and western Al-Biqa'. The two delegations, in the fifth session, resumed discussing the role of the UN emergency forces. The talks will be resumed at 0930 on Thursday. [end recording]

Further on Implementation of Beirut Security Plan

3 Army Brigades Deployed

NC261204 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Excerpts] At 0300 today three Army brigades undertook a rapid and intensive deployment, establishing new checkpoints, placing patrols on the main roads, and consolidating their positions in public buildings and institutions, all along the green line, in the devastated commercial district, and at six crossing points.

The Army's orders require that the rule of law be enforced everywhere in greater Beirut, that fortifications, earth barriers, sandbagged positions, and barricades be removed, and that violators be referred to military courts.

Lebanese Air Force Hawker Hunter aircraft carried out reconnaissance flights a short while after the beginning of the implementation of the Beirut security plan, which might take 10 days in all.

Karamah on Bikfayya Measures

NC261240 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Phalange Party Chairman Dr Elie Karamah expressed his satisfaction with the security measures agreed upon in the Bikfayya meetings and his hope that they will be implemented. From previous experience, he said, one learns to wait for some time before judging the efficacy of any decision.

Dr Karamah called on all concerned parties to respond positively to the government's political and security efforts. He commented on the role played of late by Syria, expressing hope that Syria will increase its positive efforts. Karamah said this at a joint meeting held today by the Phalangist Political Bureau and Central Council.

Birri Confirms Amal Withdrawal

NC261549 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1510 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Minister for South Lebanon Nabih Birri today reaffirmed his full support for the security measures introduced in West Beirut, and declared that elements of the Amal movement had withdrawn from the confrontation lines in the capital, handing over all security duties to units of the Army and the Internal Security Forces. Minister Birri urged all local leaderships and the Army to take a firm line with all violators of the security plan because of the direct bearing of Beirut security on plans to bring the coastal highway under Army control, thus refuting Israeli allegations which questioned the ability of the Army to take control over the south.

Reportage on Israel Air Attack in Qabb Ilyas

Israeli Aircraft Draw Fire

NC271308 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Excerpts] At 1050 today a formation of Israeli fighters bombarded two Palestinian positions in Qabb Ilyas.

The Voice of Lebanon correspondent has reported that fire broke out in the bombarded areas. At 1220, Israeli planes flew over

these aeras, taking photographs and breaking the sound barrier at a low altitude.

The Israeli planes also broke the sound barrier over Beirut and the mountain before arriving at Al-Biqa', and then again flew over these two areas at medium altitude at 1240, drawing ground fire over the mountain. Today's raid and the Israeli overflights took place simultaneously with Israeli artillery shelling in Al-Baruk and Kifrayya of PFLP position between Qabb Ilyas and Al-Safra in Al-Biqa', which lasted from 0900 to 1300 today.

1 Killed, 4 Wounded

NC271321 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] According to the latest information available on the Israeli air raid on Qabb Ilyas, as communicated to us by the NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent in Al-Biqa', a pair of Israeli warplanes carried out a raid at 1055 today on three positions in the Al-Biqa' area — two belonging to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine on the Qabb Ilyas plain, and the third belonging to Fatah dissident elements in Ra's Al-'Ayn, near Qabb Ilyas. One Palestinian named Khalil Nadim Shahin was killed and four others, two of them Palestinians, were wounded.

The Israeli planes tried to carry out another raid on the Al-Biqa' area, but Syrian antiaircraft fire forced them to turn back.

Israeli Forces Detain Amal Official, Teachers

NC271138 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Excerpt] In the south, the Israeli occupation forces are escalating their arbitrary and repressive acts and are increasing raids and detentions in an attempt to put an end to the Lebanese national resistance operations. Today these forces raided the township of Kafr Sir and detained Amal movement official Hasan al-Turayki, as well as three other citizens, including the director of the Jibshit secondary school and a teacher at the Jwayya secondary school.

The students at the Jwayya secondary school went on strike and staged a demonstration protesting the Israeli occupation forces' detention of one of their teachers. The demonstrators denounced the occupation forces and called on the officials to put an end to such arbitrary and repressive measures.

Communist Party Leader George Hawi Interviewed

NC261042 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 19-25 Nov 84 pp 44-47, 77-78

[Interview with George Hawi, leader of the Lebanese Communist Party, by correspondent Nadim Abu Ghannam — date and place not given]

[Text] [Ghannam] How do you evaluate today's Cabinet session (that of November 14), and what is your view of its outcome?

[Hawi] These decisions no doubt constitute a positive step towards a political solution to the Lebanese crisis. They permit the unification of all resources in order to achieve the unconditional liberation of Lebanon from Israeli occupation.

We were aware of these decisions through the negotiations that took place here (in Beirut) and in Damascus this week. The National Democratic Front (NDF) had dwelt upon these proposals in its latest meetings, and these proposals were discussed in direct meetings with Syrian officials, who also held talks on the proposals with Nabih Birri (minister of state for south Lebanon) and Walid Junblatt (minister of public works).

It is also known that some of these matters were discussed with (former) President Sulayman Franjiyah in Damascus two days ago, particularly the issue of the Al-Barbarah checkpoint, which is linked to the opening of the Beirut-Tripoli road.

We regard these decisions as a positive step toward a return to the application of the plan that was formalized by the ministerial statement of the Karami government. The application of this plan was hindered by the politics of the administration, which aims to use delaying tactics in the hope of gaining the necessary time for internal, regional, and international events to hinder the implementation of the provisions of the approved statement. Hence, we approve of these decisions and are optimistic about them. However, what remains of primary importance is the honest and careful implementation of these decisions; an implementation that must ensure the real national equilibrium in the formation of the Army, which is supposed to ensure security on these international highways.

[Ghannam] Do you have doubts as to the implementation of these decisions?

[Hawi] Certainly. There is much doubt about the ability to implement these decisions. A solution (to the crisis) would be detrimental to some parties. I mean first and foremost Israel, but also some internal groups; they favor the continuation of fighting in order to rake in personal profits at the expense of the hard-working people, to use the private ports, and to control the government institutions. They wish to impose their plan of hegemony.

All these forces will therefore try to prevent the implementation of the decisions and to place them in a negative perspective. Consequently, implementation of these decisions is not a certainty.

[Ghannam] Why do you object to the meetings between Lebanese and Israeli officers at Al-Naqurah?

[Hawi] Actually, there are two kinds of objections. Some sides object to the principle of these negotiations per se, and they don't even trust the nationalist factions which are exerting pressure to carry out these negotiations.

We don't approve of such an objection. We do not object in principle to negotiations that are of a military nature and held within the context of the mixed armistice commission and under the auspices of the United Nations in order to ensure a complete

Israeli withdrawal from our territory.

Moreover, we have faith in the nationalist wing of the government which sponsors these negotiations, particularly Prime Minister Rashid Karami and our friend Nabih Birri whose national stance is beyond doubt.

Our objection to the negotiations stems from the conviction that Israel will try to use them as a safety valve to let off accumulated steam created by its presence, by the resulting Lebanese national resistance, the popular uprising in the south, and the pressure of Lebanese, Arab, and international public opinion.

Israel will, moreover, try to impose impossible demands, so as to hold the Lebanese side responsible for the failure of the negotiations, (which it will use to justify) a unilateral, partial pullback of its forces, which would in turn result in massacres in some critical regions in the Iqlim [al-Kharrub] and the south. Israel conceives the security of its borders as being based on fighting amongst the Lebanese, which it wishes to foment in order for the Lebanese factions to turn their attention away from Israel.

That is why we expressed our objection to these negotiations in our statement issued last week in order to warn against Israel's deviation from its declared objectives. Our position constitutes a "trap" for Israel and support for the Lebanese national position which makes no concessions and won't let Israel make any political, economic, security, or military gains from its occupation of Lebanon. We deem it necessary to insist firmly on this position in order to render these military negotiations a minor image of the political and popular struggle against the nature of the Israeli occupation.

[Ghannam] Do you expect the conclusion of a "revised" May 17 accord?

[Hawi] Both Israel and some internal groups are trying hard to attain this objective. However, we have faith in the nationalist wing of the government, especially in Nabih Birri, as he refuses to allow these negotiations to result in a May 17 accord, which is new in form but old in content. Should this happen, abrogation of a new May 17 accord can be more easily achieved than was that of the original accord, in view of the additional guarantees provided by the Syrian leadership. It categorically refuses any Lebanese concessions that would enroach upon Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and security. This Syrian position was conveyed to us during our latest meetings with officials in Damascus. The Syrian leadership firmly insists that these negotiations should lead to the intended outcome, namely, unconditional withdrawal of the occupying Israeli forces.

[Ghannam] The NDF made its views public during a press conference, but this is the only meeting of the front held so far. Can we therefore consider this front stillborn?

[Hawi] On the contrary. Some fronts have very impressive beginnings, but afterwards they wane in importance. Our front, however, can be considered a "nucleus" which will grow through the daily struggle of the sides that form it and through the completion of its "structure" which we are striving hard to attain

Moreover, we have held several meetings subsequent to the first press conference, but we did not declare them because they were strictly about the organization of the front. Furthermore, we are now about to organize conferences in every district that will group all national forces and independent personalities who regard the NDF's plan as a basis for national endeavor. These efforts will finally be crowned with a general national conference to be held in the capital when the final form of the front's plan will be agreed upon.

[Ghannam] Why is the Amal movement excluded from the NDF?

[Hawi] This was not a surprise. As an organization, Amal is in a special position. There were discussions on the participation of Amal and on establishing a relationship of cooperation between NDF and Amal. The bases of this relationship were laid down in the joint statement issued by the Progressive Socialist Party and the Amal Movement when the NDF was announced. And you will recall, Amal was not an integral part of the National Salvation Front (formed, under Syrian patronage by Walid Junblatt, Sulayman Franjiyah and Rashid Karami to oppose the May, 1983 accord). But it was allied with that front and cooperating with it, as could be seen from the statement issued at the time by Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt.

[Ghannam] How can the Communist Party, which is ideological, survive in the face of the many religious and sectarian organizations that are shaking the country?

[Hawi] We have to distinguish between sectarian parties and trends. Some adopt the line of cooperation with Israel and of external control represented by the United States — and of internal control. Other sectarian groupings were set up as a reaction against this line and they followed the democratic and national option that is opposed to occupation and domination.

Moreover, we do not fear to declare our pride in the fact that religion and even sectarianism, in some respects, have played a national role, enhancing the wide-scale "mobilization" against the Israeli occupation in the south, west Al-Biqa', and Rashayya. Religious trends have also played a prominent role in the Lebanese struggle against Israel and foreign domination.

[Ghannam] What is your opinion of the changes in the Phalangist Party? What will their repercussions on the salvation process be?

[Hawi] These changes might constitute a double-edged sword. If the president is able to firmly control the party, the Lebanese Forces, and the Army, then he can mobilize them to the benefit of a political solution while taking into consideration the lessons learned during the past decade, especially those events that caused great damage in the country due to cooperation with Israel in an effort to end the internal conflict and enforce a negative solution to Lebanon's relations with the Arab countries.

If the president takes into consideration the lessons learned from those years, he will then act from the position of strength that he now enjoys to achieve real national accord, and to use Lebanon's resources to bring about its liberation.

Yet we fear that the changes may present an opportunity for further domination, since some policies have a demagogic aspect which aims at disintegrating the unity of the forces whose integration had imposed a new balance of powers and an alternative to the May 17 agreement.

I mean that if unification is used as a means by the legitimate authorities, the Phalangist Party and the Army to change the internal balance of powers, and if those using it are allowed to continue their plans for hegemony, violence will erupt again.

We are waiting for some sort of development as a result of the changes that took place in the leadership control, before we can determine their nature.

[Ghannam] How do you view Fu'ad Abu Nadir's (the new leader of the Lebanese Forces militia) declaration following his election that he will continue to adhere to Bashir al-Jumayyil's path?

[Hawi] This confirms our fears, especially if Abu Nadir really means what he said and if his declaration was not mere form, as when any person succeeds another in the Phalangist Party.

[Ghannam] Minister Junblatt's attack on the government, in his latest speech in Arsun, coincided with the recent statement by Abu Nadir of the need to "liberate" the mountains, suburbs and other areas. How do you view this media campaign, and do you think it will reflect on the security situation?

[Hawi] It has indeed had its effect on the security situation, and after the mutual attacks, the security situation reached a crisis in Beirut and the mountains. This means that the war is not simply on the media level, but that a deep conflict remains. Similarly, the conflict within the Cabinet is the same one that existed before the formation of the present government, although fighting has (now) become partial and occasional.

What is remarkable is the strident tone of the leader of the Lebanese Forces, who spoke of liberating Iqlim al-Kharrub and the mountains, and he may talk of the suburbs and West Beirut tomorrow.

This atitude reflects the intentions and mentality of the late Al-Jumayyil, who made the famous call to end all negotiations two weeks before the outbreak of the mountain war, saying "Let there be war, and let the stronger win."

We ask for the continuation of the political and democratic struggle to reach the solutions that we are all trying to secure by military means. So let us put weapons aside and continue the struggle in a democratic manner, by taking the opinion of the majority into consideration, on the bases of a peaceful popular struggle.

[Ghannam] How will the re-election of President Reagan affect Lebanon and the Middle East?

[Hawi] Reagan's landslide victory will undoubtedly have negative repercussions, the foremost being the state of affairs between the two superpowers over the issue of war and peace in Central America, where the American President is mobilizing forces for the invasion of Nicaragua and maybe Cuba.

It will also have negative consequences in the Middle East and the Lebanese scene in particular, especially as the Amercian Administration is openly preparing to avenge its defeat, which led to its withdrawal from the country. Consequently, we expect the president to reactivate his plan, with maybe a few superficial changes, which he can now introduce because of Israel's weakness.

We also expect the American plan to have a dual aspect — continuation of its extremely cautious moves out of fear of repeating its past mistakes. Consequently, it is declining to take any initiative and has refused to mediate in the Lebanese-Israeli talks. For if America fails this time, its whole presence in the Middle East will be wiped out.

On the other hand, the present phase witnesses a number of attractive offers on th epart of the U.S. towards many Arab parties, including an attempt to lure Syria into abandoning its basic stand, which denounces American conditions for a solution to the Middle East conflict.

[Ghannam] It is said that the outcome of the Lebanese-Israeli talks will be determined by Syria, while that of the Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will be determined by Israel. What is your opinion?

[Hawi] I refuse to accept such a hypothesis, although I believe that Syria will undoubtedly play a major role in the Lebanese-Israeli talks, as witnessed by the abrogation of the May 17 agreement, the departure of the NATO forces from Lebanon, and the Lebanese-Syrian rapprochement. The strengthening of the alliance between the national and progressive forces in Lebanon on the one hand, and the Palestinian revolutionary forces on the other, also refutes your statement. Thus I can safely state that this alliance will not allow for the alternative way to success, despite efforts to achieve this.

I will say frankly that I have previously discussed with Syria a number of barters between Robert McFarlane and other American officials, and the Lebanese authorities and the ill-reputed advisor, Wadi' Haddad, and various Arab mediators who were potential negotiators in the May 17 agreement, which involved concessions on the part of Lebanon's independence and sovereignty. Syria has refused to barter for a second, Lebanese-Syrian, "May 17 agreement" which would secure Syrian interests in Lebanon by providing it with similar concessions. Syria has insisted that her rights will be secured when Israel withdraws from Lebanon without any conditions, meaning by that the abrogation of the May 17 agreement.

[Ghannam] Why are your meetings with Minister Nabih Birri so rare, and how are your relations with Amal?

[Hawi] Our relations with Amal are very good, and we strongly agree on the various aspects of our common causes, especially the unconditional liberation of the South, the stepping up of the popular and military resistance, and the continuation of the struggle for the unification of the country on new and solid foundations, in order to remove group or sectarian hegemony.

This can only be achieved by the total removal of all sectarianism.

I do not exaggerate when I say that we both consider the joint communique between the PSP and the Amal movement as the common denominator between us and Amal.

As for the meetings, they are few because we have few disagreements which necessitate intensive meetings. Few meetings do not mean bad relations, but quite the opposite.

[Ghannam] What is the nature of relations between the Lebanese Communists Party and the Soviet Communist Party?

[Hawi] It is a relation of an alliance, which stems from a basic ideological and practical agreement over the international proletariat which unites the struggle of the present-day communists against reactionary imperialism. But these are bases of mutual respect and total independence of stands and political decision-making when it comes to the Lebanese struggle. We consider this relation gives powerful international impetus to our general Lebanese cause, which is the liberation of our land from Israeli occupation. It is a relation with Lebanon as a whole, and not merely with the communists in Lebanon.

[Ghannam] How do you evaluate the achievements of the Communist Party over the last 60 years?

[Hawi] It has been a long march and we do not claim that we have always been right, although we have been loyal to our basic premises, the most important of which is the endeavor to successfully liberate Lebanon. Another premise is our total commitment to democracy as the right choice, which enables the Lebanese people to adopt the social system they desire and which secures the rights and interests of the educated revolutionary working class and the rural working classes and all those who produce manually and intellectually.

On the Arab level, it is a process that aims at securing the interests of the Arab liberation movements in order to achieve national union by following the path of social and socialist development.

We consider our party the party of a new Lebanese liberation. At the time of what we call its rebirth, at the 1968 second summit, we looked into its deficiencies and past mistakes which had caused personal criticism. But with the "rebirth", our party has become the champion of the vital interests of the Lebanese people, involving independence, social development, and the confirmation of (Lebanon's) Arab identity. This year we have organized large celebrations on the theme: "We are the party of the National Lebanese resistance to the occupation," the "Lebanese union party", the "Lebanese Arabism party", and the "democratic change in Lebanon party."

This does not mean that we have a monopoly over these slogans; rather, it indicates that we are ambitious to be in the front line of the forces struggling for the victory of national Lebanese resistance against the occupation. There is no doubt that the response our slogans have received, which was reflected by the hundreds of thousands of people participating in our celebrations and the celebrations of the Lebanese and Arab communities in dozens of countries, confirms the place that our party occupies.

[Ghannam] Do you approve of Minister Walid Junblatt's decision to stop attending ministerial meetings because these are a "waste of time"?

[Hawi] This is one aspect of Comrade Walid Junblatt's opinion, but I will permit myself to reveal what is truly preventing Comrade Junblatt from attending these meetings. This is his conviction, and ours, that there is a conspiracy to assassinate him, which implicates certain elements who are fed up with the national stand that he represents. Hence our mutual concern to prevent these elements and the external forces backing them from taking such a step, which would undoubtedly be criminal and destructive for Lebanon.

Moreover, it is known that Comrade Junblatt does not want to remain in the government, and he has frequently confirmed that he wants to withdraw in order to free himself for the duties of consolidating the PSP, the National Democratic Front, and the wide popular work which are ncessary for directing the regime towards a productive end.

It is not unlikely that Junblatt will finally convince the relevant internal and Arab factions of his need to leave the government and to be replaced by another minister who would represent him directly.

[Ghannam] Can we consider that Junblatt has actually resigned?

[Hawi] He would like to resign, on condition that his wish meets with a positive solution to his replacement in the government without a worsening of the general political and security situation.

Junblatt Sends Envoy With Message for Khaddam

NC262032 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Muhsin Dallul, deputy leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, left for Damascus this evening carrying a message from Minister Walid Junblatt to Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. He is expected to deliver the message tomorrow morning. Dallul is accompanied by 'Abdallah al-Amin from the Ba'th Party — Lebanon branch.

Further Criticism of 'Arafat, PNC Meeting

Al-Husayni Criticizes 'Arafat Statement

NC261631 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Excerpts] At the conclusion of his meetings today, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni made the following statement:

[Begin Al-Husayni recording] On this occasion, it is necessary to comment on and express our deep regret for what we have heard about speeches and statements, particularly those made by PLO

Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, which are contrary to the current Lebanese approach. Our insistence on the meeting of the Armistice Commission says to Israel and the world that Lebanon alone cannot establish peace for Israel in the Middle East. In other words, by such action, we were keen to safeguard the rights of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian issue. This contradicts what we have heard to the effect that the operations in the south are being carried out by the Palestinian resistance. This is untrue, and it causes serious harm to Lebanon and to the Palestinian issue itself. The Israeli decision to withdraw is the result of the resistance in the south. This resistance has produced pressure by public opinion on the Israeli Government to speed up its withdrawal from Lebanon. This is in addition to the deteriorating economic situation in Israel resulting from the continued Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory. Such statements [by 'Arafat] constitute a card in the hands of the Israeli Government that it can use to convince public opinion not to withdraw from Lebanon. We do not think that Yasir 'Arafat has the right to treat Lebanon in such a way or to cause it such serious harm. Lebanon contributed more than anyone else in the world to the Palestinian cause. [end recording]

Birri Assails 'Arafat's Remarks

JN262147 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Beirut, 26 Nov (SANA) — Nabih Birri, Lebanese minister for the south, has condemned the divisionist Amman meeting of the PNC and allegations that harm the heroic Lebanese national resistance. In a statement today Birri said that it is regrettable that the issues of the Palestinian resistance front have reached so low a level. He wondered whether this meeting was meant to unite or split the Palestinians, whether it is against the Zionist enemy or against sister Syria, and whether it is to support the people in southern Lebanon and their freedom or to increase their difficulties.

Birri said: We ask these questions to affirm that it would have been better for the PLO to abide by the general national position expressed by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on the Algerian revolution anniversary. He said that it was not possible to convene a council that would (?not produce) more than one PLO. Birri added that 'Arafat and his gang changed their mind and decided to hold the PNC in Amman to split the Palestinian ranks.

Birri wondered about the significance of 'Arafat's attacks on the Syrian Arab Army and its role in Lebanon, forgetting the martyrs of the Arab Deterrent Forces who fell in confronting the invading Israeli forces. He said: It is well known that a large part of the Syrian forces remained in Beirut during the siege to defend it at the side of the nationalist forces. How can we deny these facts and in whose interest do we forget them?

Birri referred to 'Arafat's claiming the Lebanese national resistance operations in southern Lebanon and said: Who benefits from ascribing these heroic operations to the Palestinian resistance? Is this not offering a service and pretext to the Israeli enemy, which does not need pretexts?

Birri said: There is no need to make allegations about the Lebanese resistance if their want is to practice outbidding in Amman.

Amal Movement on Israeli Massacres in South

NC241248 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Nov 84

[Text] The Amal movement issued a statement yesterday noting the ugly massacres committed by Israel against the citizens of Al-Khara'ib and Arzay. The statement said that such successive massacres added to the previous ones, constitute a unique phenomenon in the world. It has become necessary to condemn the criminal State of Israel instead of talking of international crime. Arresting the wounded while they are undergoing operations in hospitals, opening fire on pregnant women, cutting the power and water from Al-Khara'ib and Arzay townships, terrorizing their citizens and dispersing children in the fields, closing down schools, and descrating the places of worship, are all issues portraying the enemy's ability to exacerbate his crimes not only against our people in the south but also against mankind's dignity in general.

The statement concluded by saying that the enemy's assassination of ulemas and mujahidin, the latest of whom were his eminence Scholar 'Abd al-Latif al-Amin and Amal movement's mujahidin, shows that the racist enemy possesses only hatred and crime to achieve his goals.

Further Reportage on Visit of French President

Al-Asad Addresses Banquet

JN261925 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1750 GMT 26 Nov 84

["Text" of speech by President Hafiz al-Asad at dinner banquet in honor of French President Francois Mitterrand in Damascus on 26 November 1984 — read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency President Francois Mitterrand, Mrs Mitterrand, members of the French delegation, ladies and gentlemen; We meet this evening to honor His Excellency French President Francois Mitterrand and Mrs Mitterrand. On behalf of my wife and in my own name, I welcome our respected guests and the members of the French delegation, wishing them a good stay in Syria. I hope they will have time during their short visit to become acquainted with the sights of our country.

In celebrating the presence of President and Mrs Mitterrand in Syria, we celebrate the first visit by any French president to the Syrian Arab Republic, and hence the special importance of the visit in contemporary Syrian-French relations. Syria extends the hand of friendship to all those who have friendly feelings toward it. We aspire to such a friendship with France, whose European and world status we appreciate.

France is a country of great poets, men of letters, writers, and scientists; a country whose shores are washed by the Mediterranean waters, which also wash our shores. Over the centuries, our nation and the French people have exchanged cultural elements that were beneficial to both countries and useful to mankind.

I hope President Mitterrand's visit will constitute the beginning of a phase that will be characterized by mutual understanding and friendship, and will increase cooperation between Syria and France on the basis of mutual benefit, joint interests, and mutual respect. I believe the reasons for establishing this cooperation are available, despite the diversity in some stands toward the Arab-Israeli conflict, caused and sustained by Israel's occupation of Arab territories and its usurpation of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights.

I do not want to elaborate in explaining the justice of our cause because I believe that this is obvious. You in France are fully aware of the region's history and the causes of the Arab- Israeli conflict, something which makes us expect from France, which raises the banners of freedom, equality, and fraternity, understanding of our cause and support for us in restoring usurped Arab territories and rights.

Undoubtedly, complications have arisen in the Middle East situation caused by Israel's insistence on violating international conventions and UN resolutions and by the absolute support Israel is receiving from the other side of the Atlantic to further its expansionist aims. We believe that the closest and easiest solutions are clear solutions based on international principles, rules, and conventions, something that requires defining right and wrong and adopting right, which represents the truth, and rejecting wrong, which represents injustice. We do not say this to simplify problems that may seem complex. We say it to explain the safe, easy method to finding a solution and realizing peace in this region.

Peace is a very dear demand for us. However, peace cannot be peace unless it is based on just grounds. No solution can be conceived to realize peace so long as part of the Arab territories is occupied and some of our people are under oppression, pain, and torture with their rights violated. Solutions will remain intractable — nay impossible — so long as principles are completely ignored and international rules and resolutions are held in contempt even by some of those who put their signatures to them.

In our view this denial and contempt are aimed at doing away with an internationally recognized and accepted formula. If this formula is not adhered to, the situation will continue to be explosive and aggravated. Thus, some sides concerned with a solution are contributing to aggravating the situation and keeping it explosive, instead of helping in finding just peace and forgetting a fact that cannot be ignored — that there is a basic problem in this region which multiplied because it was not solved, and which created new crises, issues, and problems.

Again I assert that just peace is the aim for which we struggle. Just peace is in our interest; it conforms to our desire to redouble development efforts in our country and carry out our cultural role in the best possible manner. The problem is that the other side's proposals, under the title of peace, is surrender itself, embodied in solutions based on faits accomplis found by the force of arms and in concessions that the Arabs have always had to make, contrary to their sovereignty and independence and at the cost of exposing the Arabs' fate and existence to grave dangers.

Out of our eagerness to achieve peace, we called for and supported the call for convening an international conference on the Middle East, in which all the concerned parties would participate, under the auspices of the United Nations, and attended by the two superpowers and other countries from Europe, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Islamic Conference Organization.

In view of the links between Europe and the Middle East and the various aspects of common interest between them, the Middle East conflict makes the security of one region affect the security of the other. This explains the importance of the European role in achieving a just solution to the conflict in this region.

Therefore, we affirm the role which the European countries, foremost of which is France, can play in helping to achieve a formula for an international conference on the Middle East to achieve a just solution to the conflict in this region. We, the Arabs, also suffer from a confusion of concepts in some international circles, such as the current confusion between terrorism and resistance to achieve liberation.

The nationalist resistance men cannot possibly be accused, as frequently happens, of being terrorists when they are exercising a legitimate right. I allow myself to note that the French people, who suffered from occupation and carried out national resistance, will properly appreciate this fact.

Our Arab people in the Lebanese territories occupied by Israel, in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and the Golan, have the right to resist the invaders through all available means. We deem it our duty, the duty of the Arabs, and even the duty of the world's free people, to support this nationalist resistance.

Moreover, fraternal Lebanon, which is still bleeding as result of the Israeli invasion and the accompanying barbaric crimes, has the right to receive every form of assistance and support to rid itself of the Israeli occupation and impose its legitimate authority over all its territory and waters. This is what we in Syria are doing. We are doing our utmost to help our Lebanese brothers, with whom we share the bonds of the one nation, origin, language, and common destiny.

Mr President Mitterrand, Mrs Mitterrand, ladies and gentlemen. Our cause and the problems of our region do not preclude our interest in the problems of others, particularly if these problems are international ones.

We are working with the rest of the Third World countries to establish a new world economic system that rectifies the economic relations between the north and south and one that is just to the Third World countries and will enable these countreis to develop their resources and development to benefit its peoples. In this regard, we appreciate France's distinguished stand in extending economic and technological assistance to Third World countries. We also appreciate its distinguished stand at the North-South dialogue conference — a stand that understands the needs of Third World countries.

The international situation suffers from a state of tension, which if it continues, will pose the danger of a return to a cold war atmosphere and what that entails in terms of threats to world peace and security. Among the causes of this tension are the arms race and the deployment of nuclear arms and missiles. Therefore, we give the issue of disarmament worthy consideration because the arms race, particularly between the two superpowers, threatens the world with a nuclear catastrophe.

Thousands of millions of dollars are spent annually on the production and development of nuclear weapons, while many people in several world countries are dying of starvation and many others are being wiped out by disease. We add our voice to those who call for halting the arms race and for nuclear disarmament. We support all sincere efforts aimed at achieving detente, rescuing the world from the dangers of a nuclear holocaust, and reducing expenditures on all forms of armament.

President Mitterrand, Mrs Mitterrand. You and your accompanying delegation are very welcome here among us. I hope that our meeting and talks will produce the positive results that we all seek. I also hope that you take back with you at the end of the visit the most beautiful memories of our country.

Allow me, ladies and gentlemen, to greet President Mitterrand and Mrs Mitterrand and to wish them good health and happiness. I greet our French guests and extend to them our best wishes.

Mitterrand Addresses Damascus Banquet

JN270947 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 2205 GMT 26 Nov 84

["Text" of speech by French President Francois Mitterrand at dinner banquet in his honor hosted by President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus on 26 November 1984 — read by announcer]

[Text] Mr President, Mrs al-Asad, ladies and gentlemen; It is a great pleasure for me, my wife, and my traveling companions to be your guests in this beautiful hall in Damascus at the end of the first day of our visit to Syria. I have been deeply affected by the fine quality of your welcome and the words with which you have honored our presence here. I sense in all this a determination shared by the French side to establish more constructive relations in the interest of the future.

This is our first meeting on the highest level since your visit to Paris in June 1976. This is also the first time that a French president has paid an official visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Few countries enjoy a civilization as great as the one existing in the country of the Euphrates, Al-'Asi, 'Blah, Mari', Ugarit, and Tudmur. All these names are still vivid in my memory. After the glorious ancient times, Islam came and brought the prosperous 'Umayyad Caliphate and made Damascus, as it is today, one of the most resplendent Arab capitals.

Syria is the meeting point of all civilization and a bridge between East and West. Throughout history, our two countries have repeatedly agreed or differed. In spite of these differences and the divergent assessment of the state of affairs, we have always managed to acquire a reciprocal cultural enrichment from these meetings and confrontations. We succeeded in reaffirming the need for, and importance of, dialogue; this is always the rule we follow.

We also sense in Syria the activity of a courageous and intelligent people who, through their work and diligence, have succeeded in transforming nature which, for most of the time, had been harsh and arid. They did so by undertaking a program of investments, and the Al-Tabbaqah Dam is perhaps a symbol of these investments.

French historians and archeologists, in close cooperation with their Syrian colleagues, have contributed in shedding light on an exceptional cultural heritage. The important exhibition entitled "In the Country of Baal and Astarte" has permitted Parisians to become acquainted with this culture.

Many French youths come to the French Institute in Damascus to learn the Arabic language and about Arab civilization. The French language is used by most people in Syria, or is at least understood by most people here. We are proud of this, and wish to spread this. There are many Syrian youths who are studying in our country and contributing to ambitious scientific and development projects in our country. Agreements were concluded for this purpose, and we stress the need to continue with them.

There is also the sphere of political dialogue between France and Syria. Mr President, our talks will undoubtedly allow us to achieve progress in this direction. We previously spoke, and will

continue to speak, about the confrontations in your region — the Middle East and the Near East.

There is the confrontation between Iraq and Iran. We hope that it will end as soon as possible for many reasons. Some of these reasons are connected with the freedom of navigation in the Gulf, and others are connected with the security of neighbor countries. The main reason, however, is the effect it is having on the life of the individual. There are also other interests, conflicts, and crises. We have dealt with the conflict, with Israel, and relations between Israel and the Arab nation.

As we have said, France has interests, friendships, and unique links with the countries in your region. Regarding the confrontations prevailing in the region, there are some principles which guide France's policy. You find these principles in UN resolutions. The first principle is the right of every state to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries. The second principle is the right of all peoples, particularly peoples in this region, to enjoy a homeland where they can establish the political and governmental structures that they may choose. This basically applies to the Palestinian people. The third principle is the need to settle problems and disputes on the basis of dialogue, and respect for the resolutions made by the international community, particularly resolutions issued by the UN Security Council and the United Nations. This must be done here, as anywhere else, because these principles apply to all parts of the world. We must seek to safegard human rights.

The recent developments in Lebanon show that though there still is a long way to go, one must inevitably proceed, because it is possible to restore Lebanon's safety, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. The Israeli military presence in southern Lebanon must end if we really want to solve all the problems facing this region.

To attain peace, one should explore and seek means and ways. Your Excellency, you stated your preference for convening an international conference. You have named the countries which must participate in it. Our stand in France toward this matter is clear and simple. First, such an international conference should include all the parties concerned, which have interests in the issue, and which should state their opinion. The second idea is that this international conference is of such importance that it must inevitably be crowned with success, and consequently, one must firmly and persistently seek to realize all the conditions and circumstances that will guarantee its success. France does not oppose. On the contrary, it prefers the idea of convening such a conference even if it had made some remarks in the past. Some attempts have failed and did not lead to success. This attempt must surely enjoy support. You have personally reaffirmed this support and the dimensions which Europe may offer to this conference. We always said that agreement must first be reached in the region.

We also said that such a conference must inevitably lead to results. Otherwise, it would lead to a big retreat and to the retrogradation of hopes and aspirations. French support for and French presence in such a conference proceeds from this premise. Mr President, you have linked your considerations and reflections on these points to your concept about the world situation. We must overcome all the difficulties we have faced or experienced. It is inevitable that we are in agreement once again.

For us, disarmament is our main priority. We have to maintain a balance of power between East and West, and reach the largest possible reduction in this arms race. With respect to a nuclear arms reduction, France supports this, and this arms reduction must begin with the two superpowers which possess the largest quantities of such weapons.

On the basis of our understanding of this strong balance [as heard] between East and West, we add that we do not see any need to introduce or seek to define all the conflicts that erupt in the world within the framework of this conflict or this confrontation between East and West. This urges us to show interest, the utmost interest in the Nonaligned Movement. Though we are members of another alliance, we always support all those who seek to make decisions outside the important debate preoccupying the international arena.

My last remark refers to the close link existing between the search for disarmament and the search for development. There is the East and there is the West. However, this must not distract from the North and the South. Regrettably, this is the case most of the time. We call for people's right to independence and to self-determination. We also call for the establishment of relations between north and south, and the formulation of a new world monetary system on the basis of a real settlement that would solve the problems of the prices of raw materials.

We also seek, whenever this is possible, to attain self-sufficiency in the world without forgetting the need to maintain the flow of funds and the credits that are needed to attain development, so that we would extricate ourselves from this unjust situation, from the pressure by the strong on the weak, and from the attempts to curb all creative abilities that exist in all the peoples in the world.

Mr President, allow me to stress to you that while many signs show that advanced countries are reducing their assistance to Third World countries, France has been increasing this assistance.

Mr President, at the end of this speech I would like to stress to Your Excellency my great appreciation for this visit and the importance I attach to it in view of the importance of your people, country, and also in view of the role you are personally assuming. Nothing can be achieved in the Middle East or in the Near East without Syria, that is without your contribution. Since peace in your region is a basic factor of world peace, we sense through this, the important role your country should assume.

The old relations which exist between France and Syria may regain their vitality and vigor. This is the the reason for our presence among you. To achieve this, dialogue should be frank, clear, and profound. This is what we have started, and I am glad to do this, Mr President.

Mr President, Mrs al-Asad, my wife and I are very happy to be here with you so that I can offer you my best wishes to you and to your people. I also hope that friendship between our two countries will continue because it is the basis of this great hope for our future relations.

Al-Asad, Mitterrand Begin Talks

JN262210 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and French President Francois Mitterrand began with a closed meeting at the Presidential Palace in Al-Muhajirin at 1800 today. The talks centered on a number of international issues and the general international situation.

President Mitterrand presented the situation in Europe from the French standpoint and touched on France's view of some Middle East issues. He referred to Syria's major role in the region and said that a permanent solution cannot be realized nor peace established without Syria. He added that France realizes that Syria occupies an important, high position, and that he personally is aware of Syria's history and knows that Syria and Lebanon are connected by special, unique ties. This cannot be ignored.

President Mitterrand praised President Hafiz al-Asad's personality and his role in the region, and the importance of this role in terms of solving any problems in the Middle East.

After exchanging views on the international situation, the two presidents agreed to resume their talks tomorrow, Tuesday.

Officials Attend Mitterrand Banquet

JN270737 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad and his wife hosted a dinner banquet this evening in honor of French President Francois Mitterrand and his wife. The banquet was attended by the assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the vice presidents, the prime minister and his deputies, Cabinet ministers, members of the French delegations, and heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to Damascus.

Rif'at al-Asad Attends Banquet

JN270723 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Syrian Vice Prisident Rif'at al-Asad, who returned to Damascus yesterday morning, participated in the dinner banquet that President Hafiz al-Asad hosted in honor of President Mitterrand and his delegation, and attended by top echelon Syrian officials. Al-Asad returned to Damascus yesterday after a 6-month absence. There were signs of jubiliation in Damascus streets on this occasion.

Khaddam Confers With Cheysson

JN270708 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Claude Cheysson, French external relations minister, in Damascus last night. They discussed bilateral relations and the Middle East situation.

Damascus Reports Resumption of Iraqi-U.S. Relations

JN261943 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Washington — The Iraqi regime restored its relations with the United States today within the Iraqi regime's role in serving the hostile U.S. interests in the region. Larry Speakes, who announced this, said that the decision came after President Reagan met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who is currently visiting Washington.

Libyan Army Commander Arrives in Damascus

JN261929 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, arrived in Damascus this evening at the head of a military delegation. He was received at Damascus International Airport by General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces and deputy prime minister and defense minister; General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces; and a number of high-ranking officers.

Soviet Official Attends Army Maneuvers

JN231953 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Nov 84

[Text] On the instructions of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, our forces have crowned their training year with fall maneuvers. One of our combat formations has carried out maneuvers with live ammunition in cooperation with the Air Force and paratroopers. General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces; and a number of officers from formations and the General Command attended the maneuvers, as did Soviet Deputy Minister of Defense Marshal Kurkotkin.

The maneuvers included waging a defensive battle against a simulated enemy, carrying out counterattacks against the enemy, and deterring him. Our forces, supported by the Air Force and artillery, then attacked the enemy to penetrate the enemy's fortified defenses and capture its positions. Then our forces attacked deep inside the defense positions to successfully reach the assigned line.

The forces participating in the maneuvers were able to fully coordinate and achieve all of their training objectives when they carried out the planned tasks in an atmosphere very close to a real combat situation. All of the weapons scored direct hits on and destroyed the simulated targets.

At the end of the maneuvers, Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, praised the units that carried out the maneuvers and gave instructions for the stages of training that these units carried out. He stressed the need to maintain the

high combat preparedness and to continue training and efforts to keep the Syria of Hafiz al-Asad as the major trench of confrontation against the fierce imperialist, Zionist onslaught, especially at this stage when the Camp David parties and the agent reactionary forces in the region are attempting to besiege Syria's pan-Arab role, contain the PLO, and abort the Palestinian people's just cause.

Gen Talas urged the fighters to be committed to President Hafiz al-Asad's eternal slogan — martyrdom or victory — and to resume struggle under Al-Asad's leadership, regardless of the sacrifices necessary to achieve our people's aspriations and objectives of liberating the land and achieving victory. He also stressed that our Armed Forces will continue to be prepared to defend the fateful issues, to realize our steadfast people's objectives of liberation and victory.

At the end of the maneuvers, the participating units held a symbolic military parade to express their high morale and combat preparedness.

Iran's Ardabili Makes Statement, Departs

JN241223 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Nov 84

[Text] Damascus — Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, president of the State Supreme Court of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his delegation left Damascus this morning after a visit lasting several days during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili asserted that the visit by him and the accompanying delegation was successful and fruitful. He said: Our viewpoints coincided on all issues discussed during the visit. The importance of developing relations between the two peoples in all spheres, especially legal and judicial affairs, was asserted. The president of the Iranian Supreme Court expressed his thanks for the hospitality that Syria accorded him and his delegation during their stay in Damascus.

Faruq al-Shar' Receives Turkish Ambassador

JN241534 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Nov 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received here today Turkish Ambassador in Damascus Orhan Aka, who gave the foreign minister a message from Turkish President Renan Evren to President Hafiz al-Asad.

Spokesman on Israeli Attack on Resistance Bases

JN271130 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

At 1145 today, Tuesday, 27 November 1984, enemy F-15 and F-16 planes bombarded Palestinian resistance bases in the Qabb Ilyas area. As a result of this bombardment, several civilians were martyred, others were wounded, and civilian properties were damaged.

Our air defense means in the area confronted the enemy planes, forcing them to return to where they came from. Our forces sustained no casualties.

Damascus Assails 'Arafat, Jordan's King Husayn

JN251327 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Nov 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, anyone following the scenario of the divisionist council which 'Arafat insisted on convening in Amman, thus disregarding the blood of martyrs who fell during black September and the grave division that will befall the Palestinian arena as a result of the resistance factions' refusal to endorse the Jordanian regime's course and Husayn's moves aimed at liquidating the Palestinian issue, need not be very intelligent to realize which fingers move the puppets in the region and which use Amman, Cairo, and Baghdad as its theater.

At the opening ceremony, 'Arafat pledged allegiance to Husayn by guaranteeing to cover up for his political and diplomatic moves with regard to liquidating the Palestinian issue which began by achieving a double Palestinian representation and restoring political and diplomatic relations with Mubarak's regime, which continues to be committed to the Camp David course. Although he used the protection of the independent Palestinian decision-making as an excuse, he has agreed to relinquish this decision-making by calling for a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, thus disregarding the Palestinian people's will.

Husayn's unlimited welcome for convening 'Arafat's conference in Amman was an indication of the Jordanian regime's desire to achieve Palestinian fragmentation — fragmentation that is awaited by the imperialist-Zionist circles to make it easier for them to liquidate the Palestinian issue. While Husayn endeavored to achieve this fragmentation, he continued to seek an authorization from the Palestinians to represent them in the capitulationist settlement negotiations. This became obvious in the speech with which he opened the theatrical conference and in which he urged them to deputize him to the point of threatening them. This has become easier for him to do after the Palestinians had rejected 'Arafat and his capitulationist course.

Husayn was joined by Iraq's Saddam in rejoicing over the conference. We must not forget that Saddam had called for hosting the conference in Baghdad in an attempt to aggravate Palestinian division. Yesterday, Mubarak joined those who prefer 'Arafat's course. Butrus Ghali confirmed this when he stressed the importance of convening the Amman conference and the need for 'Arafat's leadership to continue. Ghali even exposed the future moves of Husayn and 'Arafat when he indicated that the next step will be to achieve a joint agreement between them to facilitate the Jordanian-'Arafatist-Mubarak move in complete coordination with the U.S. Administration to confront the deadlock that threatens the Palestinian issue and subsequently hampers their joint move, as he alleged.

Ghali's well chosen words explained the nature of the Camp David sides' moves who have said more than once that the Reagan plan is the basis of their future moves. If we realize that the divisionist council is a homogeneous council, which agreed to enter the capitulationist settlement negotiations after abandoning the rifle, we can clearly see the bleak future that 'Arafat is trying to impose on the Palestinian people. However, the Palestinian people, who struggled and gave sacrifices in defending their cause, will undoubtedly expose every conspirator and capitulationist and continue their struggle to liberate the land and regain their rights.

AL-BA'TH on King Husayn-'Arafat Conspiracy

JN260829 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 26 Nov 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Final Act of the Play" *AL-BA'TH* says: While 'Arafat's council meets under the wing of the Hashemite family which inherited a throne wallowing in Palestinian blood, 'Abdallah's grandson has announced that he will visit Cairo with a power of attorney obtained not on the first day of the 'Arafatist council meeting, but before it because the successive acts of the play have proven that the power of attorney has been the condition for meeting in Amman. As a result of what was announced in Cairo and Frankfurt, the Mubarak-Peres meeting has become a certainty, and will undoubtedly take place after the king hands over his power of attorney to the godfather of the post-Beirut and Tripoli stage.

Thus, we believe that our masses no longer need to follow up the acts of the 'Arafatist council because the final act of the play has already been produced in spite of the fact that the council is busy with the discussion of the so-called political report. This final act is only a natural result of what had preceded it, whether by the king or the 'Arafatist clique. However, the king seems this time to be more impatient than his grandfather had been in the past, particularly since the basis of the settlement is land in exchange for peace. But which land and what peace?

AL-BA'TH adds: As 'Arafat and the king understand it, the land consists of pieces of land dispersed between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank that would be granted self-rule, voided of all its meanings. The peace that these two understand consists of swords and lances brandished over heads to suppress any voice. This is what will take place if Peres graciously accepts the proposals of the two partners.

In any case, what concerns us is not the details of the royal initiative which has won the admiration and approval of the 'Arafatist clique. The matter is far more important. What is taking place in Amman is only an operation of handing over the decision to the king who, in turn, will place it in trusted hands, during his meeting with Mubarak, who is making preparations to hold a summit meeting with Peres.

Without commenting, we would like only to remind of the fate of 'Abdallah who received and delivered. We remind of the Palestinian blood shed by the Hashemite throne.

JERUSALEM POST on U.S.-Iraqi Diplomatic Ties

TA270800 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Nov 84 p 1

[Report by the diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] The restoration of diplomatic ties between Iraq and the U.S. was welcomed by well-placed sources in Jerusalem yesterday. They said the shift by Arab states towards a closer alignment with Washington was "basically a favourable development."

U.S. Reminded of Iraq's 'Aggressive Character'

TA261012 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 26 Nov 84 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] In light of the fact that the United States is resuming its diplomatic relations with Iraq without first requiring it to resume its relations with Egypt, Israel, at this stage, is content with stressing Iraq's aggressive character.

Israel is reiterating to the United States that Iraq is a country hostile to Israel, it has no armistice agreement with Israel, and this country has announced that after the war with Iran ends, it will turn all its forces against Israel.

Joint Communique on Al-Naqurah Talks Issued

TA270829 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 26 Nov 84

[Report by S. Leibowitz]

[Text] The following is the text of the joint communique released today (Monday) by the Israeli and Lebanese delegations to the talks at Al-Naqurah:

The conference of military representatives of Lebanon and Israel convoked by the secretary general of the United Nations to discuss military aspects relating to the withdrawal of Israeli forces and security arrangements in south Lebanon had its fifth meeting today in UNIFIL headquarters at Al-Naqurah, south Lebanon. The Delegations continued a discussion on the role of UNIFIL.

The conference will continue its work on Thursday, 29 November, at 0930 hours in Al-Naqurah.

Correspondent Leibowitz adds:

A source participating in the Al-Naqurah talks confirmed that the Lebanese delegation presented its plan for the deployment of UNIFIL forces. This came as a response to the Israeli proposal presented at the last session.

According to this conference source, the Lebanese program suggests a very limited role for UNIFIL: "Not even up to the Litani River from the Israeli border — even less than their current role."

An IDF spokesman said that the Israeli delegation will consider its response for the next session.

IDF Withdrawal to Al-Zahrani Predicted

TA270925 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Nov 84 p 5

[Report by Roni Daniyel]

[Excerpt] Israeli security sources have said that if no arrangement is reached in Lebanon, the IDF will implement a unilateral withdrawal south of the current line of deployment. These sources indicated the Al-Zahrani-Rashayya al-Wadi line as one possibility.

The sources commented that despite the difficulties in the military committees' talks in Al-Naqurah, Israel will continue its attempts to reach an agreement involving security arrangements in southern Lebanon. However, it is believed in Israel that a renewal of Richard Murphy's mediation attempts are what will, in the end, lead to an agreement.

Ben-Eli'ezer on Unilateral Withdrawal

TA251830 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Nov 84 p 7

[Article by Knesset Member Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer: "The Syrian Option"]

[Text] Today's highly-discussed Syrian option as a primary and absolutely necessary condition for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon seems, at least on the surface, practical and expected, and some hinge many hopes on it. I would like to take issue with this current belief and prove how it will indeed be possible to arrive at the Syrian option but after, and not before, a unilateral withdrawal of some of the IDF forces from Lebanon.

I have no doubt that the Syrian component is vital to any arrangement, nor is there any doubt that the Syrians want Israel to withdraw from Lebanon. However, the question which should be asked is whether Syria sees this Israeli withdrawal in the context of a situation where Israel is subject to pressure, and whether it is possible to turn things around and turn the situation into a Syrian problem indeed.

What is the reality created in the area and what weight do the Shi'ites carry in this reality? This I will explain in the course of my article. I want to propose a road to a solution against the background of the Israeli-Lebanese talks currently underway.

We are faced with two tendencies: our aim to get out of Lebanon while obtaining optimal guarantees for the peace of northern Israel; and the aim of the Syrians who want us to get out. It is not abolutely necessary that these two concepts share a common interest.

A new reality is indeed developing in Lebanon; in my opinion, there is no chance, given this reality, that the Syrians will consent to enter negotiations on any arrangement in Lebanon which will involve concessions on their part. It is more convenient for them to see how Israel sheds its blood, in every sense of this word,

without having to do anything directly to ultimately bring about the IDF withdrawal. The Syrians' interest lies in increasing the popular anti-Israeli activity in southern Lebanon. It transpires that, ultimately speaking, the routine security activity of the IDF and the other security elements in this region serves the Syrians' goals. The conclusion: As long as the problem of the IDF's pullback from Lebanon is Israel's rather than Syria's problem, there is no reason for the Syrians to lend their hand to solving it.

On what am I basing this pessimistic and far-reaching conclusion which runs counter to the atmosphere of optimism lately pervading many circles? First, one should carefully examine the situation as it is right now. We will then discover that a popular, anti-IDF struggle is rapidly developing in Lebanon, and it is the Shi'ite residents of southern Lebanon who are involved in it. Terrorist elements who are members of terror organizations constitute an entirely marginal element in this struggle. The Shi'ite struggle against the security forces is led by various religious elements, some of whom are influenced by Iran and operate from the Al-Biqa' region with the support and encouragement of the Syrians, some of whom are independently activated by local religious elements.

Active alongside the religious elements are also Amal members who had for a long time refrained from directly participating in any anti-IDF activities and who are guided and activated by the followers of Nabih Birri, the minister in charge of southern Lebanon. The violent popular Shi'ite resistence is a direct result of the presence of the security forces among the Shi'ite population in populated areas and in large towns.

The security forces' activity — which does not of necessity discriminate between innocent people and criminals — harms thousands of innocent families. There are frictions which are the inevitable result of the presence of a vulnerable, sensitive and tense occupying army among a civilian population which suffers from this army *post factum*. All of these are catalysts in the development of the popular Shi'ite resistence, with the involved Shi'ites being guided not only by feelings of anger and frustration but also by mystical feelings.

A situation has been created in which the IDF and the security forces are now struggling against the local population and not only against the terrorists. This fact sheds a completely different light on the Peace for Galilee campaign. Instead of dealing with the major objective — namely, the organized, anti-Israeli Palestinian terror — the security forces are now compelled to defend themselves against the population, whom they are requesting not to aid the Palestinian terrorists in the future.

In this context one should remember that alongside the Shi'ites, who are a major component, the southern Lebanese population also includes the Sunnis, the Druze and the Christians; it is this population, in its entirety, that does not want the return of the terrorists or any other foreign element to the region. This entire population also does not want the partition of Lebanon or the absolute cancellation of Christian hegemony in Beirut which serves as a guarantee for the existence of a free Lebanon.

Nevertheless, against the background of the harsh blow dealt to public order in southern Lebanon, especially in the wake of the IDF occupation, the aspirations of the southern Lebanese population can be summarized in one word: the shar'iya [Arabic for legitimacy] of the lawful regime in the country. Therefore, this population, which is tired of the existence of all sorts of "irregular" arrangements, views any military force which lacks the backing of the lawful Lebanese Government — albeit purely Lebanese — as hostile to the sovereignty and legitimacy of the country. This population, especially the Shi'ites in it, craves for the symbols of national sovereignty and pride. Here again, Israel has a place in the splintered picture of southern Lebanon.

Israel is facing four interrelated objectives:

1. To prevent Palestinian terrorists from returning to the region and massively entrenching themselves in it;
2. To increase [as published] to the extent possible the terrorist activity against the Galilee settlements;
3. To persuade the local population not to give cover to terrorists and not to cooperate with them;
4. To persuade the Syrians to assist in reaching an agreement on an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, as well as pacification in southern Lebanon.

In the event of a withdrawal, the IDF may be replaced collectively or individually by the following:

1. UNIFIL — the element whose honor everybody has sought lately, and which is the only foreign element that can act in the area with the blessing of the Lebanese Government and the local population;
2. The army of southern Lebanon [ASL] — the weakest link in any security agreement, a military force which is opposed by the legitimate Lebanese Government and which cannot act among the Shi'ites and in large towns, since it is mostly made up of villagers, both Christian and Druze. This force does not enjoy the sympathy of the local population, especially the Shi'ites, and is, in any event, an army which cannot exist without the IDF and which may drag the IDF into continual involvement intended to keep it alive;
3. The Lebanese Army — its importance is as a symbol of legitimacy, but it cannot prevent terrorist activity in the region, unless there is prior agreement between Syria and the Lebanese Government.

This analysis of reality leads to a single conclusion: There is no substitute to the southern Lebanese population as a deterrent which will make it difficult for the terrorists to entrench themselves in the region. It is impossible to reach any agreement in southern Lebanon on the IDF's withdrawal while guaranteeing the security of northern Israel's settlements without an agreement with Syria, nor is it possible to reach an agreement with Syria without turning the southern Lebanese problem into a direct Syrian problem.

According to these assumptions, we should, even as late as now, gamble on the Christian and Shi'ite — especially Shi'ite — population, and pull the IDF back from the entire coastal area which extends between the Al-Awwali and Al-Litani Rivers. This area will move into the hands of the Shi'ites and Amal elements, and the IDF will deploy eastward, in a sparsely populated area. As a result, there will be no IDF concentration in

large population centers such as Tyre and Sidon. This will mean a unilateral IDF withdrawal followed by a renewed link between Beirut and southern Lebanon. The ASL will be removed from the entire area north of the Al-Litani and will redeploy only in the southern strip and in the Christian and Druze area.

In my assessment, this withdrawal will, in due course, bring about an agreement between the Christians and Shi'ites in southern Lebanon. Such an agreement was discussed in the past and both sides are prepared for it. Israel need not be a side to this agreement. The main point of the agreement is to prevent either side from attacking the other. Simultaneously, negotiations will be held on UNIFIL's deployment which is not only vital for Israel but also for Lebanon. At the same time, we should immediately release all the detainees from Ansar — whether they are Shi'ites or other Lebanese citizens — as a good-will gesture.

The IDF's major deployment will then be effected opposite the Syrians on the eastern front, with the IDF being free from the pressures of a hostile population. At this stage, after real steps are taken to eliminate the Shi'ite problem, the problem of the IDF's presence in Lebanon will become a Syrian one. It is only from this point of departure that it is possible to conduct any real negotiations with the Syrians. This is the only way the Syrian option can succeed.

Rabin Comments on UNIFIL Role in S. Lebanon

TA261630 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1625 GMT 26 Nov 84

["Following is the Defense Ministry Spokesman's Announcement" — ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 26 Nov (ITIM) — Israel sees an important place for UNIFIL and its deployment in the framework of the military arrangements between Israel and Lebanon. This was emphasized by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during a meeting he held today with Jean-Claude Aime, an assistant deputy of the UN Secretariat. Mr Aime is currently in the region for the military talks being conducted at present between Israel and Lebanon

IDF Soldier Dies From Wounds Suffered in Lebanon

TA261540 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Following is the IDF spokesman's announcement: 40-year-old Sergeant Yehuda Kohen, from (Bene Yehuda), died this morning from an injury suffered in Lebanon on 12 November. Yehuda Kohen was wounded in the vicinity of Jibshit, when small arms fire was directed at the vehicle in which he was traveling. The funeral of Yehuda Kohen will take place tomorrow at 1100 in the moshav of (Bene Yehuda).

Air Force Planes Attack DFLP Headquarters

TA270904 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] This morning Air Force planes attacked terrorist bases in the region of the village of Qabb Ilyas in the north of the Lebanese Al-Biqa'. All our planes returned safely. The bases that were attacked served as general staff headquarters for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and bases for launching attacks. The pilots reported good hits on the targets.

Further Details of Raid

TA271049 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1043 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Here are some further details about the Air Force raid on northern Lebanon's Al-Biqa'. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the targets attacked served as a terrorist base for DFLP terrorists headed by Na'if al-Hawatimah. Our military correspondent reports that there were two buildings at the base; one with one story, and the other with two stories. A military source has told our correspondent that the attack was part of the policy to take action against the terrorists wherever they are and whenever the IDF considers it the right time to act against them. Our correspondent points out that the last Air Force raid in Lebanon was more than 2 months ago.

Talks With UK on Military-Industrial Projects

TA221309 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Nov 84 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Israel and Britain will soon resume negotiations on the establishment of joint industrial-military projects. The issue was raised, and was widely covered by the *LONDON TIMES*, when former Defense Minister Moshe Arens visited London several months ago. The issue will be raised again at a meeting between Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and his British colleague Michael Heseltine, which is to take place in early December.

Rabin will be hosted in London by the United Jewish Appeal and the Jewish National Fund, but meetings with Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and the secretary of state for defense have also been arranged. Furthermore, Defense Minister Rabin will deliver a lecture at the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

It should be stressed that an improvement in Israeli-British relations has been noted, and this can also be seen in the military procurement area. Not long ago Israel bought combat vests worth $250,000 in Britain. As was published at the time, former Minister Arens proposed that Israel and Britain exploit their technical know-how in the military field to establish a joint project for the development of weapons systems and military hardware.

Report Denied

TA241335 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 24 Nov 84

[Text] The report that Minister Rabin intends to discuss the joint development and production of arms systems during his stay in Britain has been denied by the defense minister's communication and information adviser. The adviser said a report to this effect published by the *LONDON TIMES* was unfounded.

'Concern' Voiced Over EEC Attitude Toward PLO

TA261432 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Israel is concerned about the growing tendency of the EEC countries to view the PLO as an element in any peace negotiations. Yesha'yahu 'Anog, the Foreign Affairs Ministry assistant director general, told 8 of the 10 EEC representatives today that in Israel's opinion, their countries have a tendency to adopt the Arab attitude in the Middle East conflict. 'Anog noted that Israel has received information that the EEC countries are preparing a declaration on the Israeli-Arab conflict for their meeting in Dublin next week.

Egypt to Protest Arrest of Bedouins

TA270953 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Nov 84 p 3

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] According to an official Egyptian source, the Egyptian authorities are going to protest, through the Israeli Ambassador in Cairo, Moshe Sason, the arrest of four Bedouins in the southern Sinai a few weeks ago by the Israeli authorities when they crossed the border at Elat.

Egyptian Consul in Elat, Hasan 'Isa, reported the arrest of the Bedouin to Cairo, and also indicated that so far he had not received any details on their arrest. An authoritative source in the Israeli Police Force last night refused to comment on the consul's protest, but he did say that every arrest of an Egyptian citizen is reported through the usual channels.

Likud MK's Accuse Peres of Hiding Information

TA262005 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Likud representatives in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee claim that the prime minister hides essential information — especially information concerning the Tabah issue — from the committee and the government. In a meeting of the Likud members of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Knesset Member [MK] David Magen said that on his last visit in the United states, the prime minister dealt secretly with the Tabah issue, and that he was aided by both Minister 'Ezer Weizman and the prime minister's adviser (Al Shwiemer).

MK Pesah Grupper told our correspondent in the Knesset that he thinks that even Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir knows nothing about the secret contacts which Mr Peres has held concerning the Tabah issue. MK Magen said that the prime minister must realize that he cannot undertake secret activities without briefing the Likud ministers.

The prime minister's adviser on communication affairs, Uri Savir, said in reaction that there is no basis to the statements made by the Likud MK's, and that whoever needed to be briefed on Tabah was indeed briefed. Our political correspondent reports that the prime minister has talked a couple of times with Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on the Tabah issue. The two will hold a private meeting tomorrow.

Tabah Seen as Domestic, not Foreign Issue

TA231503 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Nov 84 p 11

[Dan Margalit commentary: "Tabah — A Reflection of Internal Politics"]

[Text] Had Menahem Begin not become entangled in the Tabah affair it would have been invented. There were outstanding forces in the Israeli and Egyptian Administrations which needed an insoluble and taboo problem. All the 'Usamah al-Bazes in Cairo seized the issue of the "Aviya Sonesta" Hotel in order to obstruct peace and maintain the screen of hostility, whereas all the Ari'el Sharons in Jerusalem hoped that the obstacle presented by Tabah would wither the negotiations on the establishment of autonomy in Judaea and Samaria. So far, they have gained the upper hand.

At the time, Moshe Dayan could not come to terms with such an agreement and he retired. As for the Likud, only Knesset Member [MK] Ehud Olmert (and following the weakening of the PLO in the Lebanese war, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar as well) agreed to consider the unilateral implementation of autonomy in the West Bank. They, too, meant autonomy only for the inhabitants and not the territory. As for the rest of the Likud faction — including those who objected to the treaty with Egypt, such as Moshe Arens and Yitzhaq Shamir — it was easy to live with its results as long as the negotiations kept sinking in the sands of Tabah, as far away as possible from Judaea and Samaria. This tranquillity was broken by Shim'on Peres who commented in an internal debate: "The molehill of Tabah has turned into a mountain."

Now, after a few weeks of refreshing explorations, a path of moves and countermoves has begun to emerge. With the help of 'Ezer Weizman, Peres tried to set up a meeting with Mubarak. His proposal to administer Tabah jointly and expand its commercial base was coupled with declarations about improving the quality of life of the Palestinians in the territories and his wish to pull out of Lebanon. Although Mubarak did not show up for a meeting, reports arrived from various European capitals saying that he is pleased with the notions about momentum in the West Bank. In practice, Israel is now waiting both for the visit by an Egyptian envoy and a reply to the proposal to meet in Beersheba to discuss the stationing of an international force in Tabah.

This open initiative has made the coalition uneasy. It is very likely that if Peres merely wanted an economic solution in Tabah he would ultimately obtain the support of a majority in the Likud, probably with the exception of Sharon and his faithful followers. However, the latter have managed to get the entire Herut movement up in arms by warning that the way from "Aviya Sonesta" leads to negotiations on autonomy in Hebron and Nabulus. Although Begin proposed it, his successors in the Likud are not interested in it and will certainly not agree to accept such a notion coming from Peres.

This is the reason for the political ferment at the ministerial level and in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, where there is more freedom of expression. This tension not only

applies to the proposed contacts with Egypt which Likud members find difficult to oppose, but also threatens to touch on the question of the quality of life of the Arab population in the administered territories.

Abba Eban and Ben-Elisar exchanged very sharp and angry words 2 days ago in regard to the autonomy plan included in the Camp David accords, not because the Israeli Government is about to make a practical decision about it, but because the attempt to eliminate and bypass the obstacle of Tabah may pave the way for negotiations on an arrangement in Judaea and Samaria. There is nobody in the Likud — not even among its moderate members — ready to accept territorial autonomy.

In this respect, they rejoice and feast over every document, piece of evidence, and argument they receive from credible Foreign Ministry officials that justify a tough, aggressive and inflexible stance on the question of Tabah. Additionally, they resort to arguments from 1906 and to prodcedures liable to block the negotiations. After all, it is easier to conduct a struggle over the hotel at Tabah — which everybody agrees was set up on land held by the Egyptians until 1967 — than over the structure of the advisory or legislating council of Palestinian autonomy in Eretz Yisra'el.

Similar forces also operated in Egypt. There are hardliners there as well who do not want any joint business or economic expansion and who do not care about "Aviya Sonesta," but want to keep alive the dispute with Israel to prevent any return to the path of peace which would preclude Cairo's rejoining the Arab rejection front.

The position of the extremists underlines the different approaches in Jerusalem. Peres' perception — highlighted by Weizman's witty rhetorical question: Where will Egypt go back to? Scandinavia? — is clear. The resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and four or five Arab countries — the first of them being Jordan — is not necessarily negative. Only an Egypt that is well entrenched in the Arab world — and not boycotted by it — can promote the chances that the Camp David peace treaty will not be the last one in the Middle East. According to this approach, the rapprochement between Cairo and Amman is no reason for concern and sorrow.

However, this approach is being challenged not only by the prime minister's political adversaries but also by nonpartisan defense elements. The latter explained in the Knesset this week that the rapprochement between Cairo and Amman might polarize the former's positions. Egypt and Jordan could look for a common denominator with the PLO and provide 'Arafat with the political backing he has badly needed in the last few years. In their search for a point of agreement with 'Arafat, Mubarak and King Husayn might confront Israel with new problems, the main one being their joint pressure on Washington which would increase its involvement and step up its demands from Jerusalem. Those subscribing to this view argue that the prime minister has failed to take into consideration the fact that Mubarak's appeal is directed to a group of leaders of the Arab world and that, on the contrary, Israeli flexibility does not make things easier for him.

The split between the two schools of thought within the coalition has thus reemerged and the differences of opinion between them will increase as the chances for entering negotiations over Tabah rise. One school of thought regards Egypt's rapprochement with the Arab world as putting the lid on all the hopes for peace engendered by Anwar al-Sadat (the 7th anniversary of his visit to the Knesset was marked this week); the other sees Cairo's merger with the Arab world as a prerequisite for making the first move toward a second peace treaty in the Middle East. As an Israeli official who is familiar with all the intricate moves phrased it this week: There are those fuming all the time because there is no Egyptian ambassador in Tel Aviv, and there are those who emphasize that despite everything and despite the anger of the other Arabs, there is an Israeli ambassador in Cairo.

This makes all the difference in the covert-overt struggle already under way in Israel's policy of national unity.

MA'ARIV Sees Settlements Prodding Husayn

TA261239 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Nov 84 p 8

[By Moshe Zaq: "Nothing New East of the Jordan River"]

[Text] There was nothing new in King Husayn's statement about "peace in exchange for territories." He has often used this formula in the past, both in public declarations and in tete-a-tete meetings with Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin. Nevertheless, an agreement was never reached because he demanded **all** the territories, because, so he said, he could not agree to less than 100 percent. If Israel wants to give back less than 100 percent, it should address itself to the PLO....

In contrast, King Husayn's admission that the facts being established in the field encouraged him to look for an immediate solution was not highlighted. Moreover, he tried to convince the Palestinians to lend a hand to a political solution or else the chances for an arrangement would disappear.

In other words: Not only does the settlement drive in Judaea and Samaria not obstruct the peace process — as many people in Israel and throughout the world claim — but exactly the opposite is true. The way Husayn sees it, it constitutes an incentive for persuading the Palestinians to lend a hand in the search for a political solution.

This argument was for some reason dismissed by those Knesset members who from the beginning decided that the PNC session in Amman should be the stake on which the national unity government is impaled. The functionaries in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem who decided that the PNC session should be described as moderate did not wait for Husayn to finish what he had to say. These Knesset members did not want to wait for Yasir 'Arafat's friends to totally reject UN Resolution 242 on which Husayn based his initiative. They hastened to submit a motion to the Knesset speaker to hold a debate on the statements made in Amman even before they were voiced from the PNC's podium. And, once these remarks were made, they opted for ignoring 'Arafat's statements and hiding behind the seal of approval granted by the Israeli television correspondent who categorically determined that Yasir 'Arafat's speech was "moderate."

"Moderate" and "extremist" are not absolute terms. The definition depends on the outlook of the speaker and his attitude toward the issue. Therefore, a credible media that wants to render faithful services to the public should initially provide the facts and only later, and separately, add the personal assessment of a commentator or the "political sources" being quoted.

Israeli television proceeded otherwise. The news announcer began by stating a fact — that was no fact at all — that 'Arafat had, as it were, made a moderate speech. This was an a posteriori justification of the action taken by the Knesset members who did not wait to hear out his speech but hastened to make a statement. This was an act of obstinacy not to give up on a definition even when the facts did not live up to the expectations.

And this is a pity. After all, Yasir 'Arafat spoke about the principle of armed struggle against the Israeli occupier and the need to escalate it in line with the decisions of the previous PNC sessions. 'Arafat spoke about the liberation of every Arab land and about "the right to return to our homes in Palestine." He did not mention UN Security Council Resolution 242 since the PLO does not recognize it and he praised Husni Mubarak for helping him out of the siege on Tripoli. However, the compliments 'Arafat lavished on Mubarak do not suggest that the former is willing to join the process begun by Al-Sadat 7 years ago. On the contrary, in order to appease his men 'Arafat retiterated that Mubarak's Egypt is different from Al-Sadat's Egypt in everything pertaining to the Camp David accords.

Even his remarks about a confederation link with Jordan were a trick since he was not referring to any immediate coordination but merely some kind of latter-day promise to Husayn.

There was nothing new in the PNC session in Amman. Even the appearance in the hall of several Israeli exiles who live on the banks of the Thames and Seine was nothing new; there have been precedents in the past. The only innovation lies in King Husayn's overt and direct argument that the settlements in Judaea and Samaria should stimultate the Palestinians to lend him a hand in order to try and reach a political solution.

This view may call for second thoughts lest Husayn lose, because of the freeze on the establishment of settlements forced on the national unity government due to the economic situation, an important incentive for persuading the Palestinians that they should waste no time and empower him to conduct the political negotiations in their behalf.

The PLO's attempt to stir up riots in Judaea and Samaria while the PNC is in session in Amman failed. The incidents in Bi'r Zayt and Ramallah in the first 2 days were quelled and the Arab inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria did not get any new tidings from Amman. The statements made at the PNC meeting did not open any door and did not pave any way to resuming the dialogue with Husayn. If the dialogue with Husayn resumes, it will be despite and not because of the PNC meeting in Amman since the PLO's new rhetoric and the attempt to turn Jordan into a base for launching terrorist operations might lead to a situation where Husayn is compelled to seek Israel's patronage.

Commentary on Progress of PNC Session

JN261655 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Nov 84 p 1

[Editorial: "A Natural Stand"]

[Text] Was it a surprise that two prominent Palestinian officials affirmed yesterday the firm Palestinian stand that rejects UN Security Council Resolution No. 242 and reaffirmed what was said in the PLO Executive Committee's political report about adherence to the right to self-determination, repatriation, and establishment of an independent state?

We answer by saying that the Palestinian replies were natural and expected. They refute the lies being circulated by some malevolent people about concessions to be made in Amman. These replies, which were accurately highlighted in the political report and in the statements of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], prove that geography cannot undermine the essence of the independent Palestinian decision and that the PNC can adopt the correct decision that stems from a definite concern for the national Palestinian rights and can protect this decision from any influences.

The progress of the council's work emphasizes daily that the PLO will conclude this session by emphasizing the Palestinian legitimacy, reactivating the institutions, and defining the Palestinian stand toward all the developments in the region regarding our issue.

We believe that the allocation of three seats for some national factions that could not participate in the session is a clear indication of the council's desire to bolster national unity and resume dialogue among the factions that signed the Aden-Algiers agreement.

Peres 'Believes' Package Deal Will Be Extended

TA262130 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres believes that the package deal agreement will be extended by several months. Mr Peres said that the partners to the agreement — the employers, workers, and the government — are willing to extend the package deal. He also said that following the transition period, gradual steps will be taken to renew the growth of the economy. Among other things special attention will be given to agriculture and industry, and strengthening the development areas. The prime minister was addressing the annual public accountants' convention.

Further on Peres Statements

TA270706 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Here are some words of hope from the prime minister about the future of the package deal — even some news about doubling immigration to Israel. The prime minister was the guest of the accountants' convention in Jerusalem. He spoke to them about the economy's distressful situation, but, as stated, he also

had some good words for the package deal. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman was at the convention and brought us this report.

[Friedman — live or recorded] Shim'on Peres came to speak about economics and found the most suitable audience with whom to discuss Israel's economy at present: accountants, an audience most of whose income comes from giving financial advice, a group whose prestige has grown as the rate of inflation has increased. The problem, Shim'on Peres said, is not the size of the government budget. The problem is the smallness of our gross national product. We must double the gross national product and increase the country's budget. We are at the crossroads of a transition period; the package deal has already caused positive changes in the economy in everything involving the public's attitude toward money and prices.

[Begin Peres recording] The package deal has gone so well that I am happy to report that among our partners — the Histadrut and the employers — there is willingness to extend it by another few months, and I very much hope we will indeed arrive at an agreement to extend the package deal. [end recording]

[Friedman] Shim'on Peres added that unemployment will not be used as a tool for curing the economy. Unemployment is a sentence handed down to the innocent. The economic problem is important, but under no circumstances is it the only one on our agenda.

[Begin Peres recording] I will not go into detail, but it appears that this year, for instance, immigration will be doubled. Some 25,000 Jews will come to Israel compared with 13,000 or 14,000 today. From the aspect of financial outlays, that will cost $100 million. From the purely economic aspect, that is a heavy burden on Israel's shoulders, but this is the type of burden we take upon ourselves willingly. [end recording]

[Friedman] To my regret, Shim'on Peres said, we cannot influence the positions of Mubarak, Husayn, or Al-Jumayyil. All we can do is to let them hear our positions.

[Begin Peres recording] Israel, with the current government, and to the extent that this depends on me, will not despair at any negative answer nor will it be thrown into a panic by any disappointing speech. At the same time, with economic independence, with the aspiration to achieve economic independence, we will again propose peace to all the Arab citizens living with us, from the Jordan River to the sea. [end recording]

[Friedman] A government is important, Shim'on Peres said, but it only serves a nation and does not replace it. Together we will attain the goals of a flourishing, peace-loving Israel.

Qeysar Says Extension of Deal 'Unlikely'

TA251345 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 25 Nov 84

[Text] Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar says that it is already clear that the package deal will make achievements. Following this 3-month period, there are three possibilities of getting out of the package deal. Even though he prefers a continuation of the freeze, it is unlikely that the government and the employers will continue it.

Therefore Yisra'el Qeysar believes that the economy will be released from the package deal gradually, and that during that time the various forces in the economy will be under supervision. Qeysar was speaking in a news conference in Tel Aviv. Our correspondent Moshe Nestelbaum reports that officials in the Histadrut building in Tel Aviv are awaiting the Treasury's answer to the demand that the wage increments be paid according to the wage agreements.

Finance Minister Approves COL Increment

TA251432 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 25 Nov 84

[Text] The finance minister has announced that the workers will receive a cost-of-living increment at a rate of 8 percent in this month's salary. Yitzhaq Moda'i informed the Histadrut of this and, following the announcement, the trade unions cancelled their intention of striking tomorrow.

Our correspondent Moshe Nestelbaum comments that for the moment it seems that the teachers will not receive the increment because the finance minister has decided that it will only be paid to the trade unions that signed the framework agreement.

Deputy Prime Minister Levi on Unity Government

TA270647 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] The deputy prime minister has warned that it will not be possible to continue with the unity government because of the atmosphere created in the government and coalition in the wake of the statements against Likud ministers. Minister Levi told our correspondent Amnon Nadav that Alignment statements and leaks are giving the impression that there is a deliberate effort to harm the Likud. He warned that the Likud would not limit itself to defense.

No Decision to Slow Down Lavi Project

TA251959 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 25 Nov 84

[Text] No decision has been accepted in the defense establishment about slowing down the rate of development of the Lavi plane project. Top military sources told our correspondent that a slow-down in the development of the Lavi will make the production of the plane more expensive and will retard its technology. Citizens Rights Movement Knesset Member Yosi Sarid suggested, in a motion to the agenda, cancelling the Lavi project. According to him the cost of the plane's development may be more than $2 billion, and the country cannot stand such a high expense.

ALGERIA

USSR Culture Minister Received by Messadia

PM251523 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 15 Nov 84 p 3

[APS report: "Messadia Receives Soviet Culture Minister"]

[Text] Algiers — Yesterday morning Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, FLN Politburo member and chief of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, received at FLN headquarters the Soviet delegation headed by Petr Demichev, CPSU Politburo candidate member and USSR culture minister, at present visiting Algeria at the invitation of the Culture and Tourism Ministry.

During the meeting the Soviet delegation declared itself favorably impressed by the gains achieved by Algeria in the cultural field in a very short space of time.

Having stressed their deep satisfaction with the level reached in cooperation between the two countries and parties, the two sides stressed the importance of exchanges of delegations, which is the context for this visit, which is contributing to strengthening Algerian-Soviet cultural and technical cooperation.

The two sides cited the influence of culture in the stabilization of international relations.

The two delegations had an exchange of views on the international situation and matters of joint interest such as security, peace, and cooperation in the Mediterranean and topical Arab and African issues.

The meeting was attended by Bachir Khaldoun, FLN Central Committee Permanent Secretariat member responsible for culture and training, and Culture and Tourism Minister Abdelmadjid Meziane.

Comments on Visit

PM251525 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 18 Nov 84 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Algeria-USSR: Examination of Possibilities of Stepping Up Cultural Cooperation"]

[Text] Petr Demichev, USSR culture minister and CPSU Politburo candidate member, returned to Moscow Saturday at the end of an official visit to Algeria.

In a statement to APS, the minister expressed his satisfaction with his visit to Algeria, characterized, he said, by political talks which took place in a friendly atmosphere. Mr Demichev also expressed satisfaction with the signing of a document on cooperation between the Algerian and Soviet culture ministers. We are pleased, he added, to have had contacts with people from the Algerian cultural world and to have been able to visit some of Algeria's historic cities and monuments. It is pleasant to be able to note that our visit coincided with the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Algerian revolution. We were able to observe at first hand the achievements which the Algerian people, their party, and their government have made on the road to progress and social prosperity, Mr Demichev said.

Brahimi Receives Hungarian, Soviet Visitors

PM251530 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 15 Nov 84 p 5

[APS report: "Prime Minister Talks to Antal Apro and Petr Demichev"]

[Text] Algiers — Yesterday afternoon Abdelhamid Brahimi, Prime Minister and FLN Politburo candidate member, received Hungarian National Assembly Speaker Antal Apro, who leads a parliamentary delegation on an official visit to Algeria, at the prime minister's office.

The conversation, which was attended by Abbas Dilmi, FLN Central Committee member and National People's Assembly deputy speaker, and the Hungarian ambassador to Algiers, broached the development of bilateral cooperation.

Abdelhamid Brahimi also received Petr Demichev, CPSU Politburo candidate member and Soviet culture minister, who is on an official visit to Algeria.

Their talks broached the state of relations of cooperation between the two countries and prospects for strengthening them. The talks were attended by Culture and Tourism Minister Abdelmajid Meziane and the USSR's ambassador to Algiers.

Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Minister Arrives

LD261651 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Algiers, 26.11.84. (APS) — The Nicaraguan minister of foreign trade, Cuenca Alejandro Martinez, yesterday afternoon arrived in Algiers as the Nicaraguan president's envoy and carrying a message for President Chadli Bendjedid. He was welcomed at Houari Boumadienne Airport by Abdelaziz Khellef, Central Committee member and commerce minister, and the Nicaraguan ambassador to Algeria.

Upon arrival, Cuenca Martinez gave a short news conference in which he mentioned the recent elections in Nicaragua, which have once again shown the popular and democratic character of the Sandinist revolution. The Nicaraguan minister added: "We came here seeking support from the Algerian people," stressing "today, more than ever, we are in need of the international community's assistance." "We are currently facing the threat of an intervention by Reagan's government, which does not understand our country's desire for peace and our people's determination to defend their freedom, whatever the price might be."

LIBYA

Egyptian Situation 'Exploded' After School Shutdown

LD261039 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo 26 Nov (JANA) — Egypt's international situation has exploded since the president of the agent Egyptian regime,

Husni Mubarak, ordered the shutdown of Al-Azhar University after it was stormed last night by police and Army forces. More than 300 students were arrested and taken in closed vehicles to unknown destinations.

The international situation in Egypt appears to be more disturbed as a result of the tyrannic authorities' repressive measures against the students of Al-Azhar yesterday when bloody battles raged from dawn until dusk.

The police forces used armored trucks and vehicles and police dogs in storming the university compound and brutally repressed the students a few hours after a surprise visit by the president of the Egyptian regime, Husni Mubarak, to the university under intense police protection.

The demonstrating students were denouncing Husni Mubarak for handing over the Egyptian Ra's Banas base to the American forces and for following a misleading and deceptive policy that increased the Egyptian people's pains and tribulations.

Dozens of police vehicles and armored cars and hundreds of central security men are currently stationed [at the university]. The police's campaign of arrest and terror is being led by Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi under strict instructions from the president of the Egyptian regime. Some neighboring areas and hotels close to the university compound have been turned into operation centers in which plans for arrests, stormings, and repressions against the students are drawn.

Eyewitnesses have stated that the present disturbed situation in Egypt resembles the situation that preceded the death of the traitor Al-Sadat to a great extent when he turned Egypt into a political detention camp in which he threw the most effective Egyptian forces, opposition people, students, lawyers, and workers and passed a series of terrorist laws that are still being implemented to the letter by Husni Mubarak, the most disgraceful of which is the emergency law which took away the Egyptian people's freedom and shackled them.

The disgraceful deeds Husni Mubarak carried out against the angry students of al-Azhar University expose the essence of his policy which is based on deception and carrying out the orders of Washington and Tel Aviv. It also removed all credibility from his statements and postures which spew false democracy and protection of freedoms. The decision of Husni Mubarak's regime to storm the Al-Azhar compound, shut down the university, arrest hundreds of students and teachers, burn some of its buildings, and kill some students, places Husni Mubarak's regime in particular in front of the Egyptian people in its true nature as a repressive regime that did not produce anything new other than implementing predrawn and prepacked plans in Washington.

Resumption of U.S.-Iraqi Relations Viewed

NC270743 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] The resumption of political relations by the Iraqi regime and the U.S. Government was officially announced in Baghdad and Washington last night. The INA carried the text of the joint declaration making the announcement. The joint declaration says that the U.S. and Iraqi Governments have agreed to resume relations as of yesterday. INA indicated that the agreement was reached between Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister in Saddam Husayn's regime, and Ronald Reagan following a meeting in Washington.

The decision to resume relations is no surprise to political observers; it is a formal measure announcing a decision that has long been implemented in practical terms, since visits and contacts between officials from the Iraqi regime and the U.S. Government never really stopped. Moreover, U.S. economic and military aid continued, though it was not announced as it will be in light of this official decision. However, it can be declared that the heightened war on Iran has reflected the U.S. will, as expressed through contacts and visits that took place between the two countries' officials, despite their allegedly severed relations.

The official declaration of the decision to resume political relations between Washington and Baghdad is a frank U.S. declaration intended to inflame the hysteria of war against the Islamic revolution in Iran by using Iraq as a tool, which has been and is still acting in contradiction to the national Arab will. In other words, America has clearly become a party to the war.

Briefs

New Belgian Envoy — Tripoli, 5 Rabi Awal, 26 Nov, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison People's Bureau, received early today the credentials of Roland Broni, the new ambassador of Belgium to the Jamahiryah. The Belgian ambassador presented his credentials by speech conveying at the beginning the greetings of the King and people of Belgium to the Libyan Arab people and leader of their revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and confirming the desire of his country to develop and support relations with the Libyan Arab people in all fields to realize the common benefits of the two friendly countries. The secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison People's Bureau confirmed, in his reply to the ambassador's speech, on the need of opening new horizons of cooperation fields between the two countries to achieve the common benefits. He pointed to the readiness of the Jamahiriyah to support relations with Belgium in all fields. [Excerpts] [*Tripoli JANA in English 1811 GMT 26 nov 84 LD*]

MAURITANIA

Haydala Confers With Gambian President

AB250845 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 25 Nov 84

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Khouna Ould Haydala and his Gambian guest, Dawda Karaiba Jawara, held a private talk yesterday afternoon at 1700. The talk, which was later extended to include the ministries of foreign affairs of the two countries, lasted a little over 2 hours. Similarly, the experts of the two countries continued meeting yesterday afternoon.

President Jawara, who is leading an important delegation, is on a 3-day friendly and working visit to our country at the invitation of the head of state. On his arrival at the Nouakchott airport, he stated that his visit came in response to one paid to Gambia some years ago by Lt Col Haydala. During my visit to Mauritania, he said, I will examine with President Haydala problems of bilateral cooperation in order to find ways and means to further strengthen this cooperation. He went on to say: We will also examine current issues at the African and international levels. I am also chairman of the Islamic Peace Committee. Mauritania being a major member of the Islamic Conference Organization and a link between Sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab world, I am sure that we will have many issues to examine.

Jawara Ends Visit

AB270750 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic of Gambia, El Hadj Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, left Nouakchott late yesterday morning at the end of a few days' friendly and working visit to our country.

SUDAN

Numayri Abolishes Cabinet, Sets Up Council

EA262029 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] In a speech made this morning to the opening session of the fourth term of the People's Assembly, President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri said that on the basis of strengthening and consolidating the principle of consultation [shura] in government, the Council of Ministers has been abolished [Ulghiya] and the Council of the President of the Republic [Majlis Rais al-Jumhuriyyah] set up to widen the scope of consultation to ensure participation and the expression of opinions, as confirmation of the integration of the organs of the central and regional government and consolidation of national unity.

More on Numayri Speech

JN262045 [Editorial Report] Khartoum SUNA in English at 1710 GMT on 26 November transmits a series of reports on President Numayri's 26 November speech before the Sudanese People's Assembly. Reception of the reports was poor, but monitorable portions of SUNA English reports included the following:

President Numayri began by speaking about the application of Islamic law in Sudan, the influx of refugees, and Libyan transgressions against Sudan. He then spoke about the situation in Africa in general and the conflict within the OAU. He discussed domestic issues and the situation in the southern region. He said: "The issue of division of the southern regions belongs to the southerners only and alone." He said that such a division must be reached by the southern citizens themselves through democratic institutions, the system of decentralization, and the republican system of government. He touched on the issue of total amnesty in holding a national dialogue.

He then spoke about Libyan and Syrian attempts to undermine the PLO's unity and cohesion and voiced support for the Palestinian struggle and rights. Numayri spoke about the first Islamic international conference, and said: "Muslim thinkers have got acquainted with our Islamic experience and they will communicate what they have seen to their peoples."

On the cancellation of the ministerial Cabinet and formation of the President's Council, Numayri said: "This has been a step in the way of boosting shura (consultation) so as to guarantee participation and reinforce national unity."

On the OAU, President Numayri said: "Methods which the OAU adopts such as settling conflicts through peaceful channels and non-interference in other's affairs, are the orbits of our foreign policy which we have been advocating."

President Numayri then spoke about the PNC and accuses Syria and Libya of obstructing it. He noted: 'We call on the Libyans and Syrians to raise their hands from the PLO." He called for efforts to achieve a just, permanent solution to the Western Saharan issue and reiterates the importance of the OAU in settling African disputes.

On South Africa, he said: "Sudan has continued its efforts to achieve Afro-Arab solidarity and liquidate the racial segregation in the southern part of Africa." On the role of the United Nations, Numayri said: "Sudan firmly believes in the role the United Nations can play in easing international tension and in securing peace in this crucial epoch which is governed by personal interest."

On Chad, President Numayri said: "Sudan has always called on the international community to boost the legal Chadian Government of President Hussein Habre." He concluded by condemning Pretoria's policy of apartheid and voicing support for the Southwest African People's organization, representative of the Namibian people.

Opposition Radio Comments on Sudan's 'Ordeal'

EA221211 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 Nov 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Sudanese people are currently passing through the severest ordeal in their history. This ordeal is not caused by external aggression as alleged by the stooge Numayri and his traitorous supporters who only care about their personal interests and the preservation of their lives. Nor is it caused by the attacks and losses suffered by Numayri's forces in any battle they wage with the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army]. Nor does it lie in Numayri's allegations: He accused the people closest to him of conspiring against him to topple his regime. The situation is worse than that.

The Sudanese people agreed [as heard] and they served the 25 May Revolution with their soul and blood for the sake of

increased production, (?but) that revolution that does not deserve all this. Why? Because Numayri signed secret agreements that aim at exploiting Sudan's natural resources. The most important of these are exploitation of the Nile waters and engaging in dealings for the exploitation of Sudan's petroleum resources with certain well-known possessors of advantages, like Adnan Khashoogi.

(?Numayri) did not stop at this. Indeed, he went to great lengths to put the lives of exiled Sudanese in danger as a game he takes pleasure in, and this is by trying to quell internal and external opposition. He also wanted to offer military assistance to the elements that are deserting the SPLA, among them (William Abdullah Chuol), so as to wreck the march of the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] which Numayri sees as a danger to him and to the country's security.The SPLA and the SPLM are watching the movements of the stooge Numayri so as to give the Sudanese people the truth which the Khartoum regime conceals from them and to rescue them from this poisoned melting pot which Numayri tries every day to retain as his property. [sentence as heard] In such sociopolitical circumstances, whatever action Numayri undertakes, the people die of hunger because of drought and famine which many areas in Sudan are experiencing without finding solutions from officials.

At the beginning of the revolution the people found themselves compelled to defend it because they were thirsty and yearning for a substitute for the suppression of partisan governments and the monstrous [words indistinct] of the rights and properties of the people. The people found the revolution's sparkling and high-sounding slogans carrying them to the road of freedom and production. However, all the honeyed slogans and speeches being presented by the leaders of the revolution and all the false promises in all the economic, political, and social fields have become a powerful weapon in the hands of the people who studied them and knew how to use this to counter the revolution in which they lost all they possess, namely strength and blood, without achieving stability or (?development). Indeed, their harvest has been ruined; backwardness and disintegration has taken the country back to the centuries of enslavement, persecution, and suppression of liberties. Hunger and (?ignorance) have played their role in the nation of glories and its proud Sudanese people.

Now we come to the harvest of this revolution led by the killer Numayri who lacks self-confidence because he deceived himself and sold himself, his people, and his land for the lowest price. In the life of mankind, self-deception is the most despicable part of contempt and self-delusion. Numayri deceived himself in all that he did in leading the Sudanese nation, which is unstintingly still giving its soul, body, and strength for the sake of advancing the country and leading it toward a society of sufficiency and justice.

The SPLM and the SPLA are continuing the armed struggle until they can return to the Sudanese people the rights stolen by the stooge and his agents. He has demeaned and deceived himself by drawing up laws, regulations, and treaties — be they secret or open — which are not in keeping with the aspirations of Sudan's valiant people who look forward to light and prosperity.

He has crowned himself king of the Sudanese people and vested in himself all the authority and power that enable him to act as he wishes, forgetting that he is ruling people who understand and who know. He is relying on the corrupt minority which does not know that it has this right [as heard] but which helps in the destruction for the sake of double salaries. [words indistinct] That is why they do not reject everything Numayri does. If they do, they are killed because he is known to be a killer. Therefore, they respond to his call, whatever it is.

The people do not accept this humiliation. They are the possessors and makers of destiny. They (?will) not slacken and allow themselves to be an instrument of (?pressure) [words indistinct] They are now bent on achieving their sovereignty and independence through the help of the SPLM and the SPLA which give them all the information and all the services to help the armed revolution, for the sake of victory and for creating Sudan's new society — a society of justice, equality, and socialism, which are the most important objectives and goals of the SPLM and the SPLA.

Numayri has created economic political crises and tribal problems and has disrupted the country's unity. All these disturbances and wars have blown away the country's security and stability for the sake of personal interest by giving an opportunity to states that love interfereing in the affairs of others, and by opening accounts in international banks, leaving the people perplexed, not knowing where they are being driven by the wheel of fate. Numayri does all of this as if he is the owner of the land and the people, with no one to watch him or to call him to account. But the SPLA and the SPLM are the watchers and those to call him to account for his actions.

Comrades in arms, on the road of struggle! Struggle and fight for the sake of the people who (?have hope in) you! Victory is ever for you! The goal is dearer than your life!

WESTERN SAHARA

Communique on Attacks Against Moroccan Positions

LD261207 Algiers APS n Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Liberated Territories. 26.11.84. (APS): A communique issued Sunday afternoon by the Saharan Ministry of Information and Culture stated that ALPS had launched a series of attacks within the past few days against the positions of the Moroccan invading forces within the framework of the Great Maghreb Offensive. ALPS had shelled Moroccan positions in Khechbinyine for 1 hour and 40 minutes on 17 and 18 November. On 19 November, the Moroccan positions in (?Jeninat) were shelled twice for 30 minutes and 25 minutes, respectively. On 20 November, 2 Moroccan forces' positions in Khechbinyine were attacked for 30 minutes and on the same day, ALPS carried out a concentrated 20 minute shelling of certain Moroccan positions in (?Khechbet Ben Guara). On 21 November, the Moroccan positions in Lefreyrinatt and Jeninat were shelled for 65 minutes.

On the 22 November, ALPS reattacked 3 Moroccan positions in Jeninat and (?Guaret Ouled Moulet) for 3 hours.

The communique stated that the attacks resulted in 42 deaths and 60 injured among the Moroccan troops. A quantity of

military equipment of the Moroccan Royalist forces was destroyed, notably a Land Rover, a 23mm cannon battery, a 14.5mm cannon, 3 81 mm mortar cannons, 2 120 mm cannons, and some trenches.

DJIBOUTI

President Meets With USSR Ambassador, Others

EA262010 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Summary] President Hasan Gouled Aptidon today held more diplomatic meetings with foreign ambassadors. He received the Soviet ambassador, Viktor Peryshkin; the PRC ambassador, Huang Qicao; the Iraqi ambassador, 'Abd 'Aziz al-Jaylani: the YAR ambassador, Muhammad 'Abd al-Wasia; and the PDRY ambassador, Ahmad Salim 'Ubayd.

ETHIOPIA

Foreign Minister Reports Hijackers Surrender

LD271029 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] The three renegade officers who hijacked the Somali Airlines 707 aircraft have surrendered with their arms to the Ethiopian Government after releasing the passengers, crew, and aircraft. The release of the passengers and the surrender of the hijackers was announced by Comrade Goshu Wolde, Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee member and foreign minister, who noted that the efforts made by the Ethiopian Government since last Saturday to solve the problem without bloodshed resulted in the hijackers releasing the hostages this morning at 1020.

In a press conference for local and foreign journalists at Bole International Airport, Comrade Goshu disclosed that the three hijackers had decided to release the passengers and crew unharmed after being assured by the Italian Government that the death sentences on seven Somali youths would not be carried out. The Ethiopian Government, for its part, has given the hijackers political asylum and transit to any country of their choice. It also assured them of its willingness to accede to their request to give a press conference, Comrade Goshu Wolde added.

On the occasion, he called on the international community to put pressure on the Somali Government to put aside the death sentences on the seven Somali youths. Comrade Goshu said the hijackers had also demanded the release of a number of named political prisoners and their urgent transportation from Somalia to be guaranteed.

Eritrean Leader Urges Egypt To Change Stance

LD212312 Kuwait KUNA in English 1713 GMT 21 nov 84

[By Imad Ajami]

[Text] Beirut, Nov 21 (KUNA) A prominent Eritrean leader Wednesday called on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak not to back Ethiopia in its war agaionst Eritrean revolutionaries.

Head of the Unified Organization of the Eritrean Liberation Movement, Osman Saleh Sabeh in a telephone interview with KUNA here from Khartoum called on Mubarak to amend his Foreign Ministry's "wrong political stance" toward the Eritrean people's cause.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Ismat 'Abd al-Majid expressed support to an integrated and unified Ethiopia in an airport statement when arriving there to attend the Organization of African Unity's summit meetings.

He said that any conflicts there are purely internal Ethiopian affairs and considered a strong Ethiopia an important factor for the stability of the Horn of Africa.

Sebbi expressed regret over the Egyptian statements and announced on behalf of the Central Council of his organization, which groups three major groupings of the Eritrean arena, Popular Liberation Forces, Revolutionary Council, and the Revolutionary Committee, that the statements are hostile toward the Eritrean people's legitimate rights to self-determination and establishment of an independent homeland.

He explained that the continuation of the battles in Eritrea only leads to the superpowers' intervention and charged that the Soviet Union had already established military bases on Eritrean and Ethiopian lands while Cuban Army elements and thousands of other military foreign experts were involved.

"The new Egyptian trend will not help solve problems in that hot area of the world and will have direct repercussions on peace and security in Egypt and Sudan," he warned.

SOMALIA

Government Calls for Red Cross Involvement

EA261552 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] A spokesman for the Somali Democratic Republic foreign minister said that the Somali Government is very worried over the security of the people on the hijacked plane and called upon (?government) Red Cross to communicate with the Ethiopian Government and request permission to see the Somalis who have been released from the hijacked plane to ascertain their physical condition, how they are, and to expedite their immediate return to their country.

Radio Halgan Reports Executions, Fighting in North

EA262245 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] The Radio Halgan reporter in the northern region says killing, looting, and pillage are being perpetrated by the army in the northern region. This, according to the report, confirms the spread of the power of the Somali National Movement [SNM] fighters in northern Somalia and indicates their preponderance in many areas. As a result, the regime has resorted to revenge against civilians in the areas where fighting is going on. Last week the regime executed about 64 people in and around Sheikh and Hargeisa. All these people had been accused of giving full

support to the SNM. Other reports from the northwest region say the ongoing fighting in the northern regions has reached alarming proportions. Our special reporter says fierce fighting is going on in the northern regions with the regime suffering heavy losses in men and materiel. The reporter adds that the SNM fighters have completely cut the roads linking the districts of the northwest region.

Radio Halgan Reports Defections From Army
EA262250 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Excerpt] A report from the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia says 42 soldiers led by four NCO's have joined the division.

TANZANIA

Party Committee Appoints, Dismisses Officials
EA262037 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Dar es Salaam — The National Executive Committee [NEC], which began its session in Dar es Salaam today, unanimously elected Prime Minister Ndugu Salim Ahmed Salim as secretary of the party's defense and security commission.

The NEC also appointed Ndugu Mustafa Nyanganyi as a member of the NEC Central Committee to fill the seat left vacant following the death of Ndugu Edward Moringe Sokoine.

Meanwhile, the NEC has dismissed from leadership Ndugu Joseph (Sereli), former Igunga Party branch chairman, in Tabora region, for contravening leadership ethics.

The NEC also dismissed from leadership all the Executive Committee members of the (Muabe) branch in Mkoani District, southern Pemba, for receiving bribes.

Ndugu John (Bahede), former member of the Mwanza regional Party Executive Committee and the head of the ideology and publicity department of the Mwanza regional Party Executive Committee, has also been dismissed from leadership for dishonesty and contravention of party ideals.

The NEC session, which continues tomorrow, also received a report on the Socialist International Conference held in Arusha in September this year.

CAMEROON

Biya Receives Message From President Omar Bongo

AB261607 Yaounde Domestic Service in English
1400 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] President Paul Biya this morning at State House received in audience a Gabonese special envoy who was bearer of a message from President Omar Bongo to his Cameroonian counterpart. In an interview accorded to Radio Cameroon, the special envoy, (Nzuba Ndamadi), said his message had to do with bilateral relations between Cameroon and Gabon and the next summit of the Central African Economic and Customs Union, UDEAC, slated to be held in Brazzaville, Congo.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Kolingba Regime 'Greatly Shocked' by Border Attack

AB261415 Paris AFP in French 0852 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Bangui, 26 Nov (AFP) — Observers feel that the recent attack on the border town of Markounda (400 km northwest of Bangui) by Chadian and Central African rebels has greatly "shocked" the regime of General Andre Kolingba. They stress that the CAR head of state is determined to do everything to prevent a repetition of the attack, 3 weeks before President Francois Mitterrand's visit to the CAR, which is scheduled for 12-13 December.

The attack on Markounda (10,000 inhabitants) on the night of 9 November left four members of the CAR security forces dead. About 50 assailants "held" the town and caused panic for several hours. A noncommissioned officer of the CAR Army was "atrociously tortured before he was killed," it was learned from an authorized source. The Presidential Guard and the Paratroop Intervention Regiment were quickly dispatched as reinforcements from Bangui to Markounda.

According to the authorities in Bangui, the former General Alphonse Mbaikoua, former justice minister, personally organized the attack on Markounda. Mr Mbaikoua took part in the attempt to overthrow General Kolingba's regime in March 1982, but he fled when the plot failed. He is presently the leader of many hundreds of armed rebels, most of whom are hiding in southern Chad. These rebels, according to Bangui, receive active support from Chadian antigovernment commandos who operate in southern Chad. This support is explained in large part by the fact that Mr Mbaikoua comes from the northeastern part of the CAR, a region bordering on Chad, where he enjoys an "ethnic solidarity."

With 3 weeks remaining before President Mitterrand's visit to the CAR, the country's security forces have doubled their vigilance. An operation similiar to that launched against Markounda is always possible, especially since controlling the Chad-CAR border, which is many hundreds of kilometers long, is very difficult. It is also felt in Bangui that the CAR opposition "has eveything to gain" by striking again "in the coming days" to prove its ability to shake up the ruling power before President Mitterrand's arrival.

In Bangui, the military authorities are particularly watching over the large Chadian community (50,000 people) who for many years have been living in what is commonly known as the "red suburbs" of the capital. Following the attack on Markounda, the Army has arrested in particular about 30 Central African and Chadian nationals who are suspected to be members of a group which, according to Bangui, seeks to destabilize the CAR and spread the rebellion in southern Chad. Other arrests could take place in the coming days, authorized sources indicate.

According to CAR officials, members of the Islamic Legion formed by Libya have been regularly infiltrating Bangui and are maintaining regular contacts with CAR and Chadian opponents. According to official sources, contacts are most often made under the cover of the People's Bureau (embassy) of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, which is still in the CAR in spite of the tense relations between Bangui and the hasty departure in May 1983 of 80 Libyan military aides from the CAR.

According to Bangui, Libya supports political groups that have been formally banned in the CAR, especially the Movement for the Liberation of the Central African people (MPLC), to which Mr Mbaikoua belongs, as well as the Central African National Liberation Movement (MCLN), which is led by Mr Idilala. It will be recalled that the MCLN claimed responsibility for a bomb attack in July 1981 in a Bangui cinema, which caused the lose of many lives.

Observers stress that France gives particular attention to General Kolingba's regime as Paris would like to fight against the destabilization of that country at all costs. This, it is recalled in Bangui, explains the (?permanent) presence in the CAR of more than 1,200 French soldiers, massive French support to the country's economy (one of the poorest in Africa), and the training of the Presidential Guard (about 500 men), a real elite section of the national Army and "indispensable" [word indistinct] of the government, by about 20 French soldiers.

CHAD

Border Brigade Commander on Security, Drought

AB262021 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] In (Lac) Province, the Joint Chadian-Nigerian Brigade set up in conformity with the cooperation agreement signed between Ndjamena and Lagos is performing well as the provisions of the agreement are being implemented to the letter. Relations between the two countries as far as border security is concerned are very fine.

This was stated this morning by the commander of that brigade in an impromptu interview during a visit to Ndjamena. Commander (Maman Faker) did not hide the difficulties facing his brigade in view of its mission of ensuring security along the borders. He stressed that these difficulties have been eased because El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the republic, has

donated some (?vehicles) to enable the brigade solve its transportation problems.

On famine and drought, (Maman Faker) said that these two plagues have led to the continued sufferings of the people of the area. Thus, one can note that corn and wheat, which are very much cultivated in this area, have not been cultivated this year, because of lack of water. (Maman Faker), whose brigade is based at Balasola, will leave Ndjamena for his zone tomorrow.

ZAIRE

Lift in Moba Reported Returning to Normal

AB262152 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1806 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Moba, 26 Nov (AZAP) — After falling into the hands of outlaws in the early hours of 13 November, the headquarters of the Moba zone, a prosperous agricultural and pastoral area of 50,000 inhabitants and located at 360 kms by road, in the south of Kalemie Province, is today healing its wounds. The town was valiantly recaptured on 16 November by elements of the Zairian Armed Forces [FAZ].

Signs of fighting can still be seen on the burned walls of some buildings and the smashed doors of some houses. Material damage, which is yet to be evaluated, is greater around Moba where [words indistinct] than in the city itself.

The situation cannot be compared with what happened some years ago during the two Shaba wars. The Moba fighting had neither the magnitude nor the fierceness of the Kasaji or the Kolwezi fighting.

The smashing FAZ counteroffensive after the dispatch of reinforcements from Kalemie, Kamana, and Lubumbashi Provinces, forced the enemy to give up following the arrival of airborne troops on 15 November. Thirteen FAZ soldiers were killed, about 20 are reported missing while seven were wounded.

(?All) the inhabitants of Moba have deserted the city [words indistinct]. Today, the city is experiencing some difficulties in determining the number of its dead. It could be as high as 100. The exact number of civilian casualties will not be known until the return of all the inhabitants. Today, it is believed that 50 percent of Moba residents have returned home.

Generally speaking, the visit of the MPR founding chairman to reassure the people will help accelerate the return which began at the end of the fighting. The primary aim of the visit by the guide [Mobutu] to Moba last Sunday was to comfort the militants of that zone. He stated this during his public address in Moba and he confirmed it during his interview with the press. He said: "I have come to comfort the affected families and to reassure the people of the north Shaba region following the sad Moba events, so that everyone can go about his business peacefully.

This objective has been fully attained as can be seen through the various testimonies in Moba as well as in Kalemie. The testimonies stress the psychological impact of the head of state's presence in Moba. The MPR founding chairman went to the north Shaba Province to express to the people there his paternal comfort and to assure them of the entire country's solidarity with Moba citizens.

Finally, the best proof of this solidarity is the blood shed by the 13 soldiers in Moba and in the neighboring villages. Marshal Mobutu was eager to express the gratitude and present the congratulations of the entire nation to these valiant combatants. This was the second reason for the head of state's trip to Moba. By this visit he wanted to meet the men fighting on the battlefield and boost their morale. He demonstrated this as a father and comrade-in-arms at the Moba airstrip some hours before his departure.

After the expression of gratitude, the soldiers were told that their mission had not ended. Certainly, from a strictly military point of view, everything was back to normal. The fighting was over and the enemies routed. Now, the head of state told them, begins the second phase of the mission, which is restoring confidence in the inhabitants and helping them to return to the city.

Already one can say that the first phase of the mission was a success. The Moba nightmare is over and the FAZ soldiers did not die in vain. Their sacrifice has led to the city's survival. Widows are still mourning their dead but, inexorably, life is taking its normal course again and already children are retracing their steps back to school.

'Perfect Calm' Prevails in Manono

AB262158 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1820 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Manono, 26 Nov (AZAP) — The presence of Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko today in Manono, 441 km by road west of Moba in northern Shaba, and 670 km north of Lubumbashi, has brought a stinging refutation to fantastic rumors, complacently taken up by foreign press that Manono was under the control of the outlaws. Manono is the headquarters of Zairetain [tin producing company].

In fact, after the leader's visit on Sunday to Moba, he returned to Kalemie, from where he went to Manono today amid an enthusiastic welcome from a large crowd. The inhabitants of Manono once more wanted to show, by the warmth of their welcome, their indefectible attachment and their unconditional support to the father of the nation.

The city of Manono is the headquarters of Zairetain, founded in 1910. There are about 30 expatriates working in that city of 85,000 inhabitants. The whole area, which bears the same name, has a population of more than 150,000. [Passage indistinct] Monsignor Ngoie Kabu, bishop of Manono, who was aroused to indignation to note that the international press was losing its credibility by publishing information of such importance without the least checking. Zairetain director Yves Preillat, who shared the same feeling of frustration, was anxious to assert on this occasion that the situation is perfectly calm at Manono, where everyone goes about his work in total security. "We have never been threatened by anything whatsoever," he concluded.

The MPR Founding chairman also held discussions with cadres of Zairetain, a company now facing various difficulties which it intend to surmount through its recently adopted redress plan. But the implementation of the plan requires substantial financing to rejuvenate production equipment, financing which the company is now seeking.

Marshal Mobutu returned to Kinshasa at 1515 [1415 GMT] after spending 3 and ½ hours in Manono.

Captain's Negligence Responsible for Moba Capture

AB261909 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1825 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Moba, 26 Nov (AZAP) — Investigations conducted by competent services of the Army to determine the causes of the capture of Moba by the outlaws has revealed that Captain Kisimba, commandant of the Moba company, is guilty of gross negligence of duty that caused the surprise attack of 13 November 1984.

All the reports have formally established the responsibility of this captain in the serious mistake and especially for not observing the directives given by Marshal Mobutu in his capacity as supreme commander of the Zairian Armed Forces. Captain Kisimba was arrested on the spot on Sunday 25 November. The captain was immediately sent to Kalemie by a patrol boat of the naval force. He will be brought before a special war council, which will sit on Tuesday, 27 November.

Joint PRC Sugar Factory Begins Operations

AB212220 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1900 GMT 21 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Kinshasa, 21 Nov (AZAP) — The Lotokila sugar factory (in the Haut Zaire region), which was built through Chinese-Zairian cooperation, began operations on trial basis on 14 November. This was disclosed on Wednesday to First State Commissioner Citizen Kengo wa Dondo by Chinese Ambassador to Zaire Mr Li Shanyi. The ambassador also told newsmen that the date for the official inauguration of the factory will soon be set.

He stressed that production operations have begun at the appropriate time, on the occasion of the anniversery of the Second Republic, which falls on 24 November. He said the date is also the anniversary of the normalization of Chinese-Zairian relations. He added that the operations are starting on the eve of the fourth 7-year term of Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic. This coincidence, the Chinese ambassador said, gives the event a certain significance.

Media Officials To Visit PRC Early Next Year

AB212233 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1845 GMT 21 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Kinshasa, 21 Nov (AZAP) — A delegation of the Zairian press led by the commissioner of state for information, mobilization, propaganda, and political action [Mopap], Citizen Sakombi Inongo, will pay an official visit to the PRC early next year. Citizen Sakombi Inongo, who disclosed this during the audience he granted on Wednesday to Li Shanyi, PRC ambassador to Zaire, told his interlocutor that the delegation will include the directors-general of the Zairian Radio and Television Organization and AZAP and the managing editors of the Kinshasa Dailies *ELIMA* and *SALONGO*.

During their 10-day visit to China, the Zairian press delegation will hold talks with leaders of the Chinese media, while the state commissioner for information will give a lecture on the "One-Party System and Democracy in Zaire" at the University of Beijing.

On his part, the Chinese ambassador announced that the director general of the NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY, Mr Gank, who was invited to Zaire by the Executive Council, will witness the official swearing-in ceremony of the founding chairman of the MPR on 6 December 1984. During his 6-day visit, the director general of the NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY will visit the Inga hydroelectric dam.

Concerning exchange of television programs between Zaire and China, Citizen Sakombi Inongo expressed the hope for a fruitful cooperation in this field, especially in the cultural, sporting, and other fields.

BURKINA

CNR Warns French Businessmen, Cancels Privileges

AB261803 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] The National Council of the Revolution [CNR] has issued a warning to French businessmen operating in Burkina Faso. This morning the minister of commerce and people's supply, who was receiving the French businessmen established in Burkina Faso, stated that the CNR will no longer maintain privileged relations with them.

Minister Alain Coeffe, who was speaking on behalf of President Thomas Sankara, justified the decision by the fact that these businessmen showed little interest in and ignored France's commitments in regard to Burkinabe projects approved by the French Government, such as the Kompyalga and the (Kambao) projects, among others.

At a time when new projects aimed at generating new resources are necessary to complete our efforts toward austerity and sound management, we cannot allow those claiming to be our friends to torpedo our efforts. Measures are under consideration to cope with the situation if the veiled boycott continues.

Houphouet-Boigny, Entente Council Donate Money

AB261948 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] The Entente Council has donated 100 million CFA francs to our country for drought victims in the Sahel region of our country. President Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast has also donated 160 million CFA francs to the chairman of the National Council of the Revolution. This amount will be put into the Revolutionary Solidarity Fund for the Burkinabe drought victims.

CAPE VERDE

Pereira Calls Angolan Offer 'Important Step'

MB231740 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 23 Nov 84

[Text] President Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde says the offer by Angola to send back most of the Cuban troops stationed there is an important step in negotiations on the independence of South-West Africa/Namibia, but he told a news conference in Stockholm, Sweden, that it is too early to express more than responsible optimism about U.S.-led attempts to secure a South African withdrawal from the territory.

Apparently, Angola has proposed cutting the Cuban contingent to 10,000 men over 3 years in exchange for South Africa's agreement to pull its forces out of southern Angola, to end support for UNITA, and to scale down its army in South-West Africa/Namibia to 1,500 infantry.

Cuban troops have been stationed in Angola since its independence in 1975. The report from Stockholm says other officials expressed confidence that the United States would try to bring Angola and South Africa together in Cape Verde to discuss South-West Africa/Namibia before the end of the year.

They said the United States and South Africa had told the Cape Verde Government that they had made good progress after their last meeting in the islands. The officials declined to give details of the latest Angolan proposals, but said they amounted to substantially more than earlier Angolan offers to discuss troop withdrawals with Cuba once South Africa had pulled out of South-West Africa/Namibia. Cape Verde, a former Portuguese colony like Angola, has long served as intermediary between Angola and South Africa.

IVORY COAST

Further Reportage on French Military Maneuvers

French Ambassador Interview

AB211141 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 20 Nov 84 pp 6, 7

[Interview with French Ambassador Michel Dupuch in *FRATERNITE MATIN* (FM) on the upcoming Franco-Ivorian biannual military maneuvers, Comoe-84, beginning 23 November]

[Excerpts] FM: Your Excellency, what significance do you give to the Franco-Ivorian maneuvers which are going to take place in the eastern part of our country?

Dupuch: I attach primary importance to this event. You are, no doubt, aware that France and Ivory Coast are linked by defense agreements, the 22d anniversary of which falls this year. These agreements provide for a number of modalities whereby France is committed to the Ivory Coast for its external security. Within the framework of this agreement which, naturally, has several elements, it is provided that in certain cases of aggression against the Ivory Coast, French troops would be enlisted to fight on the side of the Ivory Coast. Evidently the importance of these maneuvers, which we conduct every 2 years, is to repeat the experience and to prepare for a situation in which the Ivorian Government would find it necessary to appeal for such French support. Therefore the maneuvers that are going to take place have the well-defined aim of testing under battlefield conditions the operations to be embarked upon and the problems that crop up with respect to the combination of forces and the organization of interarmy directing staff.

The need for the implementation of the Franco-Ivorian agreements have not yet arisen within the framework of an actual aggression, but the fact remains that the maneuvers are the rehearsals for what could happen if the need arises.

FM: Your Excellency, you said that if, perchance, the Ivory Coast is attacked, France would be at her side. In the event of an attack, and supposing that our airport cannot be used for landing, how could your country effectively support the Ivory Coast? In

the first place, what will be the means at France's disposal? How will she react in the beginning?

Dupuch: That is the essence of our agreements. It is evident that in case of an attack which would put Ivory Coast's security into danger, the means for countering it must be provided rapidly, so we have a certain number of forces in France which are precisely meant for such rapid intervention. They are known as the Rapid Intervention Forces.

FM: While waiting for the military aid you have just mentioned, how will the defense of the Ivorian territory on sea, land, and even in the air be organized within the framework of these agreements? Are there enough means here?

Dupuch: The reply is obviously yes. In liaison with the Ivorian authorities and under their command, the troops stationed here are capable of holding an airport, or even several, and of ensuring arrival platforms which are extremely necessary for dispatching reinforcements. It is very difficult to conceive that an aggressive country in the area, in the broader meaning of the term, will be able to organize surprise operations to capture the country's airports. Anything is imaginable, but finally it is difficult to carry out such a plan successfully; that is, it would be difficult to neutralize the platform. In any case, there are imaginative solutions to this problem within the framework of the agreement between the Ivorian authorities and us.

FM: On the problem of communications, the last Franco-Ivorian maneuvers had problems on this level, yet we know that the success of a war today depends on communications....

Dupuch: You are right to point this out. This was one of the lessons of our last maneuvers. (...) During preceding maneuvers, we were able to do on the spot checks of troop disposition and test equipment, which we were able to use after the test.

FM: Talking about these manuevers, you referred to the agreement signed 22 years ago. You mentioned especially external aggression. What about internal aggression? How does France react to that?

Dupuch: The agreement does not cover internal aggression, which is the sole responsibility of Ivorian authorities.

Each country deals with its internal problems within its borders. We refer only to external aggression from countries which are aggressive toward the Ivory Coast and which would attack its borders or territory.

FM: Are you not afraid that if your enemies know this they will organize their attack from within the country?

Dupuch: There comes a time when the situation strongly deteriorates and the threat of external aggression looms high. At such a time the agreement is implemented. What happens within the country concerns the Ivory Coast first of all. The agreement is implemented according to its judgment of the situation. It is not up to the French to decide. It is to the Ivorian Government to decide what action to take.

FM: So, it is 22 years now since these agreements exist. What conclusion can we arrive at today?

Dupuch: You see, as you guessed, there are several clauses within this agreement. There are in fact arrangements for crises — and this is what we have just referred to — and which are being tested, experimented with, as is done every 2 years to revise our respective knowledge about the problem of crises during the next maneuvers. There are other arrangements and agreements on military operations which can be schematically analyzed in three parts. There are about 100 of our French military cadres serving in the Ivorian Army as advisers, but they do not give orders, except in two rather special cases. One is the case of the Bouake Military Academy. The Ivorian Government had in fact asked for the help of a superior officer trained in the rather special job of running a military academy. The second is also a technical case, since it concerns the academy of the Bouake Air Force base.

Apart from these two cases, the entire commanding staff is made up of Ivorians. We have some technical advisers in some Army headquarters. They are there for the definition of logistics or for the training of staff for some periods. This is an important facet of our agreements which has led to the presence of about a hundred military personnel. These agreements are renewed every 2 years, according to Ivorian needs. Every 2 years, we discuss plans for the replacement of French military personnel and every year Ivory Coast calls on us and we try to satisfy its request. This is one facet. The second facet, which is also very important, is the training of Ivorian specialists, through short or long-term courses, in our schools in France.

The third facet is the equipment. Part is paid for by the Ivorian state and part is donated by us within the framework of direct military aid. This agreement is implemented over 3 years and this is the fifth time it has been renewed. We supply equipment listed by the Ivorian military authorities which they need. The equipment could be tanks, transport vehicles, guns, and so on....

These are the three facets of these agreements, apart from the specific defense agreement we talked about earlier in this interview.

[FM] Comoe 84 will witness the participation of both French and Ivorian troops. Did you have any previous training sessions together to enable participants to know one another?

[Dupuch] Of course, the French soldiers' mission is to train in order to be prepared to face any situation within the framework of his operations. Of course, besides these two maneuvers, which take place every 2 years, there are several limited maneuvers in between times .... These limited maneuvers are carried out regularly in agreement with the commanders who study the crossing of rivers and who integrate the two forces....

[FM] How much will Comoe 84 cost?

[Dupuch] I cannot give you any exact figure simply because there are some exceptional expenses connected with the maneuver and they must be added to the running expenses. If the troops engaged in these maneuvers were not to take part in them in the Ivory

Coast, they would still have to live, they would still have to be paid, and the equipment would still have to be serviced or replaced. So, for the extra cost, I cannot give you any exact figure. I do not have any exact figure. All we did was to define the scope of the maneuvers. We know that there are 5,000 troops taking part: 3,000 Ivorian and 2,000 French nationals.

[FM] Comoe 84 is a repeat of Indenie 83. What I mean is that these maneuvers will take place in a border area. What significance can you give this?

[Dupuch] What is important is the geographical location. Whether the maneuvers are held in an area bordering a neighboring country is not important. We could have held them at Grand-Lahou. It is the same thing. We want to practice the crossing of rivers. We want to know how to solve communications problems in specific areas. We want to be faced with problems of protecting major cities. This will enable the troops to examine issues that Army headquarters could be faced with. The fact that the maneuvers are taking part in the east or in the west is of no importance. So, neighboring countries should know that it is not specifically due to them that maneuvers are carries out in certain locations. What is important to us is the opportunity offered the troops to be able to solve problems that may confront them in the course of the maneuvers.

Military Maneuvers Continue

AB261215 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 0745 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Excerpts] The French-Ivorian military maneuvers entered their 2d day today. We now go to Eloa Oulai, our special correspondent, reporting live from the Dimbokro command post.

[Begin Oulai report] The first highlight of these maneuvers was yesterday in Serebou where the warring forces made use of their strategies in an effort to bring the situation under control. Carmen units — that is the enemy — crossed the Comoe in the north by surprise. Then, thanks to their indisputable air superiority, they shelled many targets and successfully dropped airborne troops. In the center, the Carmen succeeded in infiltrating (Comoekro), and in the south they infiltrated Anoufoue.

When the effect of surprise was over, the greens, the Ivorian troops, who know the field, organized the defense in order to stop the enemies from advancing after crossing the Comoe River in four places. Without any air cover, the greens succeeded in repelling the enemy from three flanks, from the south, the center, and the north. They even used anti-aircraft guns. In the meantime, the allied troops progressed deep into the field. Today, Comoe 84 enters a decisive phase with new strategies.

The marines will get involved around Bassam in order to prevent the enemy from reaching Abidjan. All these maneuvers are taking place in a totally accountable manner in the presence of representatives of member countries of the Nonaggression and Defense Air Agreement [ANAD], and they will see how our Armed Forces defend themselves against enemies and verify that these maneuvers are directed against no one. [end Oulai report]

Paris Club Countries Agree To Reschedule Debt

AB261150 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 26 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] Twenty-three billion nine hundred and ninety-one million CFA francs is the total amount in bilateral agreements for the rescheduling of Ivory Coast's debts, which Minister of State Seri Gnoleba signed last Saturday in his office with Austria, Norway, Belgium, Italy, Canada, and the Netherlands.

At the ceremony for the signing of the agreements, which falls within the framework of the second phase of negotiations with the Paris Club, these countries were represented by their ambassadors, Their Excellencies Tassilo Ogrinz, Leif Edward, Paul Duque, Salvator Scaglia, and [Jan Nemopuk] Horak.

Leon Naka, general manager of the Autonomous Sinking Fund and member of the committee set up for negotiations on the rescheduling of our debts, announced the geographical distribution of the above-mentioned amount in a press release.

"The agreements concern the debts due in 1984 and amounting to the following: Belgium, 8,338,953,730 CFA francs; Canada, 3,870,041,280 CFA francs; Italy, 3,765,746,790 CFA francs; Austria, 2,424,115,438 CFA francs; Netherlands, 3,319,005,905 CFA francs; and Norway, 2,273,909,640 CFA francs," he said. Most of these amounts were given in the local currencies of the creditor countries and in dollars (for part of the debt to Italy).

Speaking on this occasion, Minister Seri Gnoleba first recalled the relentless efforts that our country is making in order to restore global equilibrium to its economy. He further announced that we will go before all our creditors again to seek the rescheduling of our private and public debts for 1985, pointing out:

"The rainfall situation is better this year than last and we do not anticipate renewed power outages with their attendant adverse effects on our economy. Even though we hope that our production of export crops, which has not suffered from drought this year, will yield greater revenues, the ratio (of interests paid on the credits and foreign earnings) cannot yet restore our economy to its previous condition in spite of the austerity measures taken at all levels."

Mr Gnoleba also expressed satisfaction over the great trust displayed by the six countries toward Ivory Coast by signing these agreements within the framework of the Paris Club. In fact, the Paris Club operations end with this ceremony, France, Switzerland, and the FRG having been the first countries to initial the rescheduling of our debts. Now the remaining countries are the United States, Brazil, Spain, and Great Britain.

LIBERIA

Doe Overrules Chief Justice Decision

AB260922 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] The head of state, Commander in Chief [CIC] Samuel Kanyon Doe, has ordered the chief justice of Liberia to immedi-

ately restore the minister of justice the right and privilege to practice law in the Republic of Liberia. Dr Doe said he considered the action seriously of the chief justice to suspend his minister of justice from legal practice in the country.

He said the move is seen by him as an attempt to embarrass government, especially when it is obvious that the minister is expected to represent the state at any time and to defend government as the occasion may arise.

According to an Executive Mansion press release issued in Monrovia yesterday, Sunday, the head of state said as a matter of courtesy and respect of office, no action of such magnitude should be taken against any of his ministers by the head of another branch of government without his knowledge.

Dr Doe further noted that like the chief justice, the minister of justice is also appointed by him and such critical action against the minister should have been first referred to him.

CIC Doe reminded the chief justice that the present government is still basically a military one and that with the absence of a constitution the two branches of government are not necessarily separate and distinct.

He said the process of going through channels should therefore be followed.

MALI

DPRK Vice Minister for Foreign Trade Begins Visit

AB231912 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 23 Nov 84

[Text] His Excellency Tok-hwan, DPRK vice minister of foreign trade, arrived this afternoon in our capital.

Mr Tok-hwan, who is paying his first visit to Mali, was welcomed upon his arrival by Moussa Leo Keita, acting permanent secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, as well as His Excellency Hong Il-ho, DPRK's ambassador to Mali. Several high-ranking officials were also present at the airport.

NIGER

Seyni Kountche Leaves for Rome FAO Meeting

AB261802 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Excerpt] The head of state, General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council and current chairman of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, left Niamey this morning for Rome in Italy where he will address the 86th session of the FAO Executive Council.

During his visit to Rome, President Kountche will hold talks with Italian President Sandro Pertini and with Pope John Paul II.

NIGERIA

TIMES Denounces 'Evil Machinations' of U.S.

AB260957 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Nov 84

[From the press review]

[Text] The *NATIONAL CONCORD* and the *DAILY TIMES* discuss the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. The two papers think the peace pact with South Africa by Mozambique and Angola favors the racist government. The *CONCORD* regrets that, in spite of a peace accord, the racist government has intensified its harassment of Angola and Mozambique. The paper, however, calls on the United States, that initiated the withdrawal of Cuban troops as a condition for Namibian independence, to critically assess the dispute before taking action.

The *TIMES* feels it is not healthy for Angola to hastily implement her part of the agreement, which is a withdrawal of Cuban troops. It does not see any linkage of the Namibian independence with the presence of Cuban forces in Angola. The *TIMES* suspects that the United States is subtly working for the ousting of Cuban troops from Angola to enable it install a puppet regime. The paper advises Angola to be very alert to the evil machinations of the United States.

SENEGAL

Ruling Socialist Party Wins Municipal Elections

AB261956 Paris AFP in French 1320 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Excerpts] The ruling Socialist Party, PS, not unexpectedly won the municipal and rural elections which took place on Sunday in Senegal with 96 percent of the votes cast, according to partial results published by the Ministry of Interior. The partial results cover 35 out of the 37 districts (including Dakar) and 78 of 317 rural communities, representing a total of 43 percent of the registered voters.

(?The candidates) of the PS will mainly win the 37 districts of Senegal, both in the 26 districts where they were unopposed (including 2 districts where the results are not yet known) and the 11 districts where they competed with one or two opposition parties. The PS has thus captured the only district — Oussouye in Casamance — which they lost during the previous elections in 1978.

The Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS), which won that district, did not present any candidate this year, having boycotted the whole elections.

Participation rate was 62.28 percent for the partial results, but it did not exceed 40 percent in the three districts of the Dakar region. According to the Interior Ministry projections, the total participation rate could be estimated at 64 percent, being the same rate as that of 1978, and the Socialist Party, which presented candidates in all the constituencies, is expected to win all the municipal and rural councils.

The best results obtained by the opposition were recorded in Sedhiou Province, in Cassamance, where the Party for the Liberation of the People (PLP, populist) obtained from 25 to 38 percent of the votes cast in the rural communities thanks to the votes brought in by the Socialist Party dissidents.

The Democratic League-Movement for the Labor Party (LD/MPT, Marxist) on its part obtained its best results in some rural communities at Diouloulou, (Cassamance), with 29 percent, and in the Bambey and Bakel Provinces (center and north of the country) with 15 and 12 percent of the votes. In Dakar, the two opposition lists only obtained 7 percent of the votes cast, and 5 percent at Pikine, a major suburb of the capital.

In general, the elections took place in a calm atmosphere and did not raise the traditional enthusiasm that used to be marked by dancing and singing. Few incidents were reported.

Meanwhile at Diourbel, in the center of Senegal, two Senegalese Democratic Party militants (who boycotted the elections) were arrested for buying up a batch of 500 voter's cards at 200 CFA francs a card.

The militants of the PLP delayed the beginning of voting in Sedhiou by demanding the presentation of both an identification card and a voter's card from the electorate. Opposition parties, which describe the nonpresentation of those cards as "opening the door to all kinds of fraud" also denounced this practice which, incidentally, is permitted by the electoral code.

They also denounced other "irregularities" such as the expulsion of their delegates from certain polling stations and the distribution of cards that were not retrieved by their owners to PS militants. It is because they feared these frauds that most of the opposition parties, including the biggest of them — the PDS, decided not to participate in the elections devoid, as they put it, of sufficient guarantees of regularity and impartiality.

The whole opposition demanded a change in the election code for the same reasons in order to ensure a "greater sincerity" in the votes. According to official sources, this reform is under study and should be implemented very soon.

Publication of New Monthly Newspaper Reported

AB232030 Paris AFP in French 1500 GMT 23 Nov 84

[Text] Dakar, 23 Nov (AFP) — A new monthly newspaper for general information, *LE DEVOIR*, which is presented as "truly independent," has been launched in Senegal. The paper, which is published by a group of professional journalists who proclaim to be "concerned for the right of the public to better information," is edited by Pathe Mbodje, former editor in chief of the *TAKUSAN*, (Evening), which was founded by Abdoulaye Wade, leader of the Senegalese Democratic Party (opposition) in February 1983.

Mr Mbodje, former editor of the Dakar daily *LE SOLEIL*, also edits *SAHEL-AGRICULTURE*, a quarterly publication devoted to agriculture and environment in the Sahel countries.

SIERRA LEONE

Chinese Vice Premier Arrives on Visit 25 Nov

AB261125 Dakar PANA in French 1002 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Freetown, 26 Nov (TAP/PANA) — The Chinese vice premier, Tian Jiyun, arrived in Freetown on Sunday evening on an official visit to Sierra Leone, first leg of his West African tour. In a statement on his arrival at the airport, Tian Jiyun said his visit was aimed at increasing the understanding and friendship between the peoples of China and Africa, as well as strengthening the solidarity and cooperation between China and Africa. He hoped that his visit would help to promote the friendly and cooperative relations between Sierra Leone and China.

Tian Jiyun was welcomed at the airport by Sierra Leone's first and second vice presidents, S.I. Koroma and Mr Minah, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheka Kanu. From Sierra Leone, Tian Jiyun will visit Nigeria, Mali, Benin, and Togo.

PRC To Give Aid

AB261801 Paris AFP in English 1635 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Freetown, Nov 26 (AFP) — China is to give Sierra Leone 35 million yuan (13.5 million dollars) to aid Chinese projects in the West African country, along with 2,000 tons of maize and wheat and a "certain amount of essential commodities and medical drugs," government sources said here today.

The announcement came as three days of talks started between a 22-member Chinese delegation led by Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun and Sierra Leone officials, including the ministers of trade and industry and economic development and planning.

Mr Tian has also given an invitation to visit China from Chinese President Li Xiannian to Sierra Leone President Siaka Stevens.

The Chinese delegation is to visit a number of industrial projects in the country before going on to Nigeria, Benin, Togo, and Mali.

ANGOLA

UNITA Forces Claim Attack on Power Line to Luanda

MB261556 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] The UNITA movement in Angola says its forces have again attacked the power line between the Cambambe Hydroelectric Station and the capital of Luanda. Fifteen pylons and two transformers have been destroyed on the power line.

A UNITA statement released in Lisbon says the attack took place in the Katete region about 100 km from Luanda. The movement says the action had paralyzed industrial activity in Luanda. The statement also mentioned that UNITA is planning to increase the number of attacks it is making on the capital. UNITA forces first attacked the power line from Cambambe about 6 weeks ago, leaving Luanda largely blacked out for 4 days.

Radio Luanda has been broadcasting appeals by the Angolan Energy Company for consumers to use a minimum of electricity. The radio says the electricity supply to Luanda has been restricted by unspecified technical problems.

MOZAMBIQUE

Dos Santos Speaks at Interprovincial Meeting

MB261805 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] The fifth interprovincial meeting of the central region of the country, which ended in Tete city yesterday, found that growth has been experienced in cooperation relations among the provinces of Manica, Sofala, Tete, and Zambezia.

During the closing of the ceremony, Marcelino dos Santos, member of the Political Bureau and leader of Sofala Province, stressed the fundamental importance of these meetings to creating a common approach which may lead to the successful realization of the tasks defined at the level of the central region.

Marcelino dos Santos expressed the need for the work plans to be elaborated in accordance with the concrete reality of what we have, and not what we should have.

On the occasion, Marcelino dos Santos recalled that the combat against armed banditry and hunger continues to be the main task in our country.

On Saturday morning, the leaders of Sofala and Zambezia and the governors of the Provinces of Manica and Tete visited Carbmoc in Moatize. They visited, among other sectors, the Chipanga-4 mine and the goods railroad terminal of the central Mozambique railroads.

When he spoke of the activities of the enterprise, the director of Carbomoc said that efforts are being made to transport the coal stocks. He also spoke about the enterprise's production plan for 1985.

Marcelino dos Santos, the leader of Sofala Province, said on the occasion that great care must be taken while transporting coal so that contracts signed with other countries may be fulfilled.

Foreign Minister Chissano Leaves for Cuba Visit

MB261111 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 25 Nov 84

[Text] At the invitation of Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano left yesterday for a 6-day official and friendly visit to Cuba to strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, peoples, and states.

RSA Environment Minister Arrives in Maputo

MB261734 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] The South African minister of environment affairs and tourism, Mr John Wiley, has arrived in Maputo for the signing of a fishing agreement between Mozambique and South Africa. Under the agreement, South Africa will provide a $1 million credit for Mozambique's fishing sector and licences will be issued to allow South Africans fisherman to fish in Mozambican waters. The new agreement also envisages the exchange of scientific information between the fisheries research institutes of the two countries.

Fishing Agreement Signed

MB261746 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] The governments of the People's Republic of Mozambique and South Africa this afternoon signed in Maputo an accord in the field of fisheries. The accord is valid for 3 years, and it establishes the general principles of relations in the economic, commercial, technical, and scientific fields.

Speaking during the ceremony, State Secretary for Fisheries Tenreiro de Almeida said that the accord is within the new framework of relations, which became possible with the signing of the Nkomati Accord. He also added that the document signed today will rectify a situation which has preoccupied the Govern ment of the People's Republic of Mozambique regarding conservation and rational exploitation of the maritime resources of Mozambique's legal waters, which are part of the common ecological system of the two countries, and which have been the object of fishing, which is not under the control of our maritime authorities.

In turn, John Wiley, the South African deputy minister of environmental affairs and fisheries [as heard], praised the significance of the accord.

Government Hopes Pact Will End Illegal Fishing

MB261952 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Mozambique and South Africa have reached agreement on fishing rights in the coastal waters. The Mozambican Government hopes this will bring to an end illegal fishing in Mozambican waters by South African vessels. After the signing of today's agreement in Maputo, a Mozambican fisheries official said that from now on any South African fishing boat found in Mozambican waters illegally would be subject to the full force of Mozambican law.

The fisheries spokesman said that now that there is a legal framework, it would be intolerable if there were to be any illegal fishing. He said that both governments have the duty to ensure that this does not happen and that the principles of the agreements are accepted.

The spokesman added that Mozambique expected the South African Government to ensure that there is no illegal fishing in Mozambican waters. Under the agreement, Mozambique can request licenses for its fishing companies to operate in South African waters. South African fishermen will also be allowed to fish in Mozambican waters with fixed maximum limits, and the South African Government must give 2 million rand credit to the Mozambican fishing industry.

FPLM Destroys Two 'Armed Bandit' Camps

MB261844 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] The FPLM in Inhambane Province destroyed on 21 November two armed bandit camps in the areas of (Silamue) and (Bolimo), in the districts of Homoine and Jangamo respectively. During these operations, the FPLM killed a total of eight armed bandits. At the (Silamue) camp, our Armed Forces freed 45 people who were being forced to live with the armed bandits in addition to recovering 50 cattle and a number of goods which had been stolen from the residents.

The Inhambane Province military command which supplied this information, added that during the attack on the (Bolimo) area camp, 208 pieces of automatic weapon ammunition, 8 magazines, 2 mines, and various other types of war materiel were captured. The source also said that on 16 November, the FPLM in Panda District attacked and took another armed bandit camp on the bank of Nhavare lake, in that area of Inhambane Province.

This FPLM victory permitted the freeing of the residents of Tofo and Nhaulane in the district of Panda and Jomoine respectively, who were being forced to live with the armed bandits. More than 480 people were freed and they are now constructing a communal village in (Urene).

BBC on MNR Attacks on Maputo Port, Elsewhere

MB261836 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] There apparently has been a slight change in tactics by the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] guerrillas fighting the Frelimo government in Mozambique. First there have been reports that they have been using terror tactics in the rural areas, burning villages and killing local people, and in two incidents it seems the rebels have been trying to hit strategic and economic targets. It looks as if though they have had very little success. From Maputo Lois Brown cabled this report.

[Brown] Residents of the capital, Maputo, could both hear and see the gunfire of rebels operating last night from Catembe, the residential area that faces the capital across the river. A resident of one of the villages dotted around the administrative center said this morning that the firing began about 1830 last night and appeared to be directed at the port across the water.

A Maputo resident, who saw tracer bullets in the evening's sky, said the target appeared to be fuel tanks in the port. Government soldiers in the Catembe area then began a long-range fire aimed at rebel positions. The exchange lasted about half an hour, but this morning the port area of Maputo was calm with no signs of any damage.

A similar attack took place in Niassa Province in Mozambique's far north last week when rebels launched a mortar attack against fuel tanks belonging to the state fuel company, Petromoc, in the provincial capital of Lichinga. Just before down last Tuesday, two mortars were lobbed at the fuel installations on the outskirts of Lichinga from across the valleys some kilometers away. Only one of the tanks was hit and as it was empty, there was no explosion. Niassa, like the rest of the country, is suffering from a severe fuel shortage and the capital's light and electricity supply depend on fuel.

The attempts by the MNR to pick out economically strategic targets have not meant a lessing of pressure on civilians. The Catembe resident, who reported last night's fighting, said that last Thursday the rebels had killed seven militia in a village close to Catembe. They had been beaten, bayoneted, and then decapitated. Their bodies were found by their neighbors the following morning. The renewed activities so close to the capital have frightened Catembe residents who feel they are getting insufficient support from the military. In September, a village named after the country's leading hero of the armed struggle, Josina Machel [President Machel's wife who died in Tanzania in the 1970's] was attacked. The authorities sent in a new administrator and troops, but the rebels sent a message saying they were returning and the administrator and soldiers fled. The rebels did come back and destroyed the village.

AIM Reporter Discusses Drought, MNR

MB250635 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 23 Nov 84

["Insight" program: "A Mozambican Disaster Area;" Ian Christie interview with AIM Reporter Paul Fauvet — live or recorded]

[Text] Drought and war are the big problems that Mozambique has had to face since independence in 1975. The lack of rain in the last few years has laid waste to much of the country, particularly in the south, where war has also been a problem.

The people have had to fight for a survival against the odds. The Rhodesian and South African armies and secret services have launched ferocious attacks against Mozambique, with the assistance of Portuguese and Mozambican criminals. In the south it was possible to find Mozambicans ready to sell out their country. There was no rain and people were hungry. But most people, hungry as they were, refused to rob and murder on behalf of the Rhodesians and South Africans and the Portuguese businessmen who wanted to return to their former colony for the plunder. Some Mozambicans, however, crossed over to the enemy.

In the province of Inhambane, nothing has been the same since, but the situation of hunger and bandit attacks is changing according to reports in the Mozambican press. To get a clearer picture of the lastest situation, I have with me in the studio Paul Fauvet, a reporter with AIM who recently returned to Maputo from Inhambane Province.

Paul, let us talk first about the drought. A year ago we saw pictures of starving children in Inhambane Province. It was the worst drought zone in Mozambique. What is the situation today?

[Fauvet] Immeasurably better. There is nobody dying of starvation in Inhambane at the moment. This is because the drought relief operation has run very smoothly this year and is getting out into the areas where the people are. The local authorities have made this a top priority to ensure that the international food relief is coming and is landed to the small ports of Vilanculos and Inhassoro, channeled through to the people who are in need of relief.

[Christie] Now, does this mean that enough food is now coming in from the international agencies and foreign governments?

[Fauvet] No, because the situation is still on a knife edge, that is, if the aid stops coming in and if once again the rains fail, then again Inhambane Province will face a critical situation. It is vital that the food aid keeps coming in until the next harvest, which won't be expected really until April of next year. That harvest in itself clearly is dependent upon rains this year. The rainy season is on at the moment. When I was in Inhambane a couple of weeks ago, it still had not rained in the north and interior of the province, the areas which were the big drought areas last year.

[Christie] Now, do the people have enough seeds to plant if there is rain, because I know that in other parts of the country there has been this problem of, all right, the rain comes, but no seeds.

[Fauvet] The local authorities do seem to have enough seeds, and I was told that they are waiting for the rain to fall and then they will immediately distribute the seeds to the peasants to plan for the coming harvest.

[Christie] Now, another point I would like to raise here, in some countries where there is a serious drought problem, people have been moved from the dry areas to areas where there is a possibility of growing food. Is anything like that happening in Inhambane?

[Fauvet] Yes, people are being encouraged to move to the areas where there exist sources of water, small lakes, small streams. Of course, the situation is not so dramatic as it is in Ethiopia, because of the few people involved. But certainly the idea which the provincial government had is to maximize the use of the water resources that exist. This includes the rehabilitation of some decayed irrigation schemes, those operated under colonialism.

[Christie] Is it correct to say that there are parts of this province which are not suffering from the drought and other parts which are where you can move people from one part of the province to the other?

[Fauvet] It is inaccurate to talk of Inhambane as if it were (Karomoja). It is a vast area, the drought zones are really in the interior and in the north of the province. Among coastal strips and in the south, the situation is nowhere near as serious. When I speak of the moving population, it is really in the north where people have been moved from a particularly arid area to an area where there may be a small lake. It is a fairly small scale and it should not be thought of as something that will solve all problems.

There are fertile parts of Inhambane, for instance, further south we have the Homoine district, which is considered as the breadbasket of the province. It is considered as an area which that should be able to eventually feed much of the rest of Inhambane, and it is an area which will itself produce seeds for peasants elsewhere. This is the job of one of the big state enterprises in Homoine.

[Christie] Now, if we can turn now to the problem of the Mozambique National Resistance [MNR or Renamo] terrorists. How much have they contributed to the problem of hunger in Inhambane Province?

[Fauvet] I think we can say that the activities of the MNR were the decisive factor in turning a drought into a famine, because it was the fact that the roads were not safe, that it is impossible to get relief lorries out to the people, the fact that the transport system had been devastated by the bandits, that 400 rural shops of Inhambane had been burnt down by the MNR.

These were factors which contributed to the disaster of 1983. It was only when the Mozambican Army successfuly drove the MNR out of much of the interior of Inhambane that the scale of the disaster became evident. It was then that people who had been more or less under the control of the MNR began moving in the south toward the coast to relief centers that were being set up there. It was then that the authorities understood the full scope of the disaster that war and drought had brought down.

[Christie] So, are you saying that the military situation is now better?

[Fauvet] Oh, the military situation is under control. For instance, in the area where the MNR was extremely powerful once, the interior locality of Mabote, in the north of the province, where the MNR first appeared in Inhambane, where they burnt down

all 15 of the communal villages that existed in the locality, there has now been not a single bandit attack for 15 months. On the roads to the province now you do not find the kind of bandit ambushes that took place in the past. The lorries circulate in most of the province without any difficulty at all, and there exist no big bandit bases that existed in the past.

In 1983, the MNR had a huge base at a place called Tome, which coordinated their activities for the whole of southern Mozambique. That was destroyed in August 1983 and today nothing similar exists. In most of the province, the MNR is operating in small groups and largely at night, turned to individual assassinations. It does not launch the kind of major attacks that we have seen in the past. The military authorities in the province are confident that they have the situation well in hand.

[Christie] But, it is just a week ago that these people said in Lisbon — their headquarters in Lisbon — that is impossible to travel 4 km out of Maputo. How did you get to Inhambane?

[Fauvet] In a car and it is rather more than 4 km away. It is a drive of 500 km, and I did not think I was being particularly brave in making that journey. Twenty other people were making the journey at the same time with cars and lorries, plenty of traffic on the road. Of course it is still a hazard to make the journey at night. In daytime, traffic goes up and down that road. Of course, you might be unlucky. You might be attacked, but the chances are you will not be. The road in Inhambane itself is very safe.

South of Inhambane city there is a stretch of road which use to be a deathtrap in 1982 and 1983, around a place called Malaissa. There were many ambushes there, many people lost their lives on that part of the road. Now it is perfectly safe. Communal villages along that stretch of road have been rebuilt, the Mozambican barracks there, they guarantee plenty of security, and what was once considered as bandit territory has been taken away from the MNR, in fact, firmly under Mozambique's control.

[Christie] Now, the Mozambican government has offered an amnesty to bandits who surrender. I believe that Inhambane is one of the provinces where there have been a number of bandits handing themselves over and there has been an effort to rehabilitate them. Did you see any of this during your visit?

[Fauvet] I visited one of the two centers of rehabilitation that exist in the province. This is a center called Chidoco. It is 16 km outside the town of Massinga in the center of the province, and it is a very new experience. It only involves some 30 former MNR members. At the moment they are clearing land for sowing and collecting thatching material to build their houses.

They are all people who are natives of Inhambane and they are all of peasant origin, so the kind of work they are expected to do is nothing new to them. Their families have been located and been asked whether they want to come and join them there and form what eventually will be another village. They are being provided with food at the moment by the army. They are receiving seeds from the local agricultural authorities to start their agricultural activities, and it is hoped that this experience will show many of the bandits who are still in the bush that the Mozambican Government is serious about its policy of clemency.

The bandits were told by their leaders that if you are captured by the Mozambican Army, or if you surrendered, you will have your throats cut. It is clearly not true. The bandits whom I spoke with at the Chidoco rehabilitation center, some were very surprised that their lives had been spared and they were now being given the chance to start afresh.

[Christie] But are they, in fact, now free men or are they prisoners?

[Fauvet] There is a contingent of troops at Chidoco, but it is there not so much to stop people from running away as to protect the former bandits from any attempt that people might make to take revenge against them. Of course there are lot of people in Inhambane who lost friends, who have lost relatives, at the hands of the MNR. There is always a chance that somebody may wish to take revenge.

Even now the local government and party structures have been launching a campaign to explain to people what the policy of clemency is and why they should support the rehabiliation — the reintegration of former bandits back into Mozambican society. All the bandits — rather the former bandits — at Chidoco did not wish to return to their original homes for fear of what their former friends and neighbors might do to them.

14,000 in Central Region Endangered by Drought

MB261234 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] A total of 14,000 people are in danger of starvation in drought-stricken areas of the central Mozambican province of Manica. Much of the province is fertile, but the southern part, near the worst famine areas of Inhambane and Gaza, have received no rain at all in the past 3 years.

The local administration in the small town of Machaze has registered almost 50 deaths from famine this year, but says many more have probably died in the bush on their way to seek help. The region normally produces enough corn for the peasants to live on and it is known for its exports of cashews.

Southern Manica is infested by Mozambican National Resistance armed bandits and their presence makes it impossible to supply food to Machaze by road. Relief supplies have been airlifted into the town since August. A feeding center for orphans has been set up and there is a second center for all children in danger of malnutrition, providing dairy milk for 500. The Red Cross is also digging wells and repairing water pumps.

Manica Province has a second drought area in the northern district of Guro, bordering on Tete. A total of 98 deaths from famine have been reported in the town of Mungari, and many more appear to have died in the bush. Bandit activity has also affected food production and distribution, and relief supplies are being airlifted into the district.

Renamo Claims Raid on Maputo Suburb

AB262005 Paris AFP in English 1828 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Maputo, Nov 26 (AFP) — Mozambican rebels have launched a series of raids in recent days in the Maputo suburb of Catembe, killing seven people, official sources said here today. The sources said a series of explosions and automatic weapons fire were heard late yesterday in the suburb, across the Maputo estuary from the capital and accessible only by ferry from Maputo. An unidentified number of people close to the ruling Frelimo Party were abducted, they added.

(A spokesman in Lisbon for the rebel Mozambican National Resistance Movement [Renamo] said today that an attack had been carried out yesterday on an oil storage depot in Catembe. He made no mention of any victims. The spokesman, Jorge Correia, said MNR guerrillas used heavy artillery in the raid, which reportedly followed clashes last week with Catembe militia. He added that MNR men had destroyed fuel supplies and killed 20 government soldiers in another attack near the northern town of Lichinga on November 20.)

The sources said today that seven Catembe militia members were killed late Friday in the skirmishes, but there was no formal government confirmation of the incidents. Reports that a fuel depot outside Catembe had been attacked remained unconfirmed today and no fire was visible in the area. A traveller who arrived in Maputo today confirmed that an empty fuel depot in Lichinra had been attacked.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Discusses Politics at Election Meeting

MB270700 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has called on all South Africans to practice politics in such a way as not to benefit the country's enemies or to damage South Africa in the process.

Speaking at an election meeting in Parow, Mr Botha said all South Africa's political parties had the same enemies abroad, and those enemies were busy uniting and planning against the people of South Africa daily. He said domestic division was a danger to South Africa. What the country needed most at this stage was greater unity, harder work, more productivity, and greater faith.

Mr Botha pointed out that before the commencement of the new constitution, the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, had predicted unrest in the country, because South Africa's enemies wanted to see the new dispensation fail, with the aid of agitators and instigation. Mr Botha said South Africa was, however, passing the crossroads of doubt and entering the road to a lasting peace between its peoples and its neighboring states.

Wiley Comments on Mozambique Fishing Pact

MB261753 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1748 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Johannesburg, Nov 26, SAPA — South Africans should have better qualities of pink prawns, crabs, and crayfish available in the shops before Christmas following the signing today of an agreement between Mozambique and South Africa.

At a press conference at Jan Smuts airport shortly after his return from Maputo tonight, the minister of environment affairs and tourism, Mr John Wiley, said the main agreement was three-pronged.

Firstly, joint programs to investigate marine resources and the exchange of scientific and technical information involved would be established.

Secondly, the use of harbor facilities of each of the parties by the fishing vessels and crews of the other parties, subject to the refurbishment of the Mozambican fishing fleet.

A joint commission had been established to give effect to the principles of the main agreement, Mr Wiley said.

The agreements were to last for three years after an initial stage ending 31 March next year during which the quotas for South African fishing companies had been set at 120 tons pink prawns, 100 tons crab, 30 tons of crayfish/langoustines and a quota for line fish would be announced in due course.

The South African fishing companies, two major groups and a number of smaller concerns would pay the Mozambican Government levies for these catches.

Mr Wiley said the agreement signed today allowed South African fishing boats back into Mozambique's 200 nautical mile fishing zone for the first time since the Durban fishing vessel the *Morning Star* was arrested and confiscated in March last year by Mozambican authorities.

The agreement was specifically intended for Natal fishing boats — a number of which had been laid up since the *Morning Star* affair.

Mr Wiley also said the agreement was a "golden opportunity" for game fishing from South Africa as the fish involved in the sport had not been exploited for some time.

The fishing groups who would probably "already have their boats on the way to Mozambique now" intended to have the first load of prawns, crab, and crayfish in South Africa before Christmas.

It was difficult to predict the effect of the agreements on sea food prices but he hoped they will come down, Mr Wiley said.

Industries Delegation Meets With Law Minister

MB261326 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] A delegation from the Federated Chamber of Industries [FCI] held a meeting with the minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, in Pretoria late this morning, on the detention of trade unionists and on labor unrest in the country.

The delegation was headed by the chairman of the chamber, Mr (John Wilson), and included the chairman of the chamber's manpower group, Mr (Bobby Godsell). The meeting followed talks which the Association of Chambers of Commerce, ASSOCOM, held with Mr le Grange and the minister of manpower, Mr Du Plessis, last week. The FCI, the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut [Afrikaans Business Institute], and ASSOCOM earlier expressed joint concern at the detention of certain trade union leaders. At last week's talks, ASSOCOM insisted the trade unionists who were being detained either be charged in court or released.

Quick Charges Urged for Detainees

MB261707 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] The Federated Chamber of Industries [FCI] has called on the government to charge detainees in court as quickly as possible with specific offenses they are alleged to have committed that have threatened the security of the state.

In a statement issued in Johannesburg, the chamber says this view was put to the government at a meeting between the chamber and members of parliament, including Cabinet ministers. The statement says that the minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, indicated to the FCI delegation that the government was not in any way seeking to act against individuals or organizations because of their trade union activities or because of their political views. Mr le Grange said the state acted only where individuals were involved in actions which involved the security of the state.

The FCI says that for this approach to be demonstrably clear both inside and outside the borders of the country and especially in the work place, it has urged that the detained individuals be charged in court with the specific offenses they are alleged to have committed and which have threatened the security of the state.

Police Chief Interviewed on Unrest Rumors

MB260858 Johannesburg Television Service in English
1800 GMT 25 Nov 84

[Text] The commissioner of police, General Johan Coetzee, has urged South Africans not to fall prey to the rumormongering which has given rise to fear in several centers in the past week. To do this, he said, was to play into the hands of radical groups bent on revolutionary, as opposed to evolutionary, change. Louis de Villiers asked the general who was spreading the rumors:

[Begin recording] [Coetzee] Well, I think basically they would emanate from those pressure groups, because it is necessary for them to try and upset the equilibrium — the balance — of society. As you know, I suppose that you can have a society that is so law-and-order structured that it becomes ossified, but it is generally accepted that a prerequisite for all political advancement, for all economic advancement, is law and order.

[De Villiers] We have a situation at the moment, in a place like Pretoria, where mothers are afraid to take their children out during the daytime, and that type of thing. Do you think there is any truth in any of these rumors?

[Coetzee] Well, rumormongering is a characteristic of the activities of these pressure groups, these radical pressure groups, because it plays into their hands. They do not want a healthy, peaceful climate in the country. Now, let me say immediately that the South African police and other law enforcement agencies are well equipped to collect and collate all information in South Africa, and we know exactly what the position is, so people who fall victim and prey to rumormongering are in fact playing into the hands of these radical groups, and it does not behove them to do so.

[De Villiers] General, you referred to certain pressure groups. Could you explain exactly which groups these are?

[Coetzee] Well, in the main, primarily I have in mind the proscribed ANC. They have just issued a publication entitled "Make South Africa Ungovernable". Now unfortunately we have, in our country, organizations with links — some, direct links, and some, more tenuous links — with the ANC, and those are the organizations that I specifically refer to here.

[De Villiers] And what about white organizations to the right of the political spectrum?

[Coetzee] Well, you have this phenomenon that in political life, your extreme left and your extreme right are both concerned about a stable and ordered society, because they are the people who want to prove that moderates, squeezed between the left and the right, those are the people that cannot govern efficiently, and that moderate people are the people that should be ousted from government. It is also a characteristic of these people, these radical organizations, to try and create a confrontation between black and white South Africans. Let me say immediately that is the worst thing that can happen.

[De Villeirs] Can the South African public be assured that, if action should be necessary, the police will take action against both extreme left and extreme right?

[Coetzee] I think we have proved that in the past, that we will and have taken action against extreme left groups, and we will do the same as we have done in the past, against extreme right groups, provided, naturally, that the law is transgressed. [end recording]

Black Consciousness Organization Condemns 'Stay-away'
MB261531 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0951 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Johannesburg, Nov 26, SAPA — Hundreds of police and Army personnel patrolled the Vaal Triangle and East Rand townships at the weekend in what police described as normal routine duties. Heavy police and Army presence has characterised most reef townships following recent unrest in the area.

Residents have expressed fears that the latest moves, of introducing the Army in police operations, was in preparation for a takeover by the Army of what were basic police duties. A spokesman for police headquarters in Pretoria confirmed this morning that the Army assisted the police in weekend patrols in Bebokeng and Sharpeville, in the Vaal Triangle and in most East Rand townships. The spokesman said the patrols were normal routine crime prevention operations.

Meanwhile, the tense atmosphere in Sharpeville was sustained when more than 2,000 residents resolved at a mass meeting that the service charges they were paying at present were too high and called on the Lekoa Town Council to scrap some and reduce other charges.

The meeting, called by the Vaal Civic Association, was one of the biggest since the September 2 meeting where the residents called for a protest stay-away, and came only three days before the local councillors are due to elect a new mayor and his deputy. The elections will be held tomorrow.

In Soweto, 16 black consciousness organizations denounced a 1-week stay-away which was to have begun this morning, at a meeting held at the St Hilda's Anglican Church in Senaoane. The meeting resolved that future stay-away calls must be approved by the community and the repercussions thoroughly weighed before the public was asked to boycott work.

52 People Arrested During October Funeral Released
MB261705 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1546 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Johannesburg, Nov 26, SAPA — Fifty-two Sebokeng people who were arrested for attending a banned funeral at the Evaton cemetery during October this year were released in the Vereeniging regional court today. The accused were part of the 500 mourners who were arrested in the cemetery.

The state had alleged that they attended the funeral of Mr Joseph Sithole in Zone 13, Sebokeng, illegally as a public gathering at the funeral had been banned. Mr Sithole was killed during the riots on October 1.

They appeared before Mr A.J. Visagie. No evidence was led and they were not asked to plead. They were told to go home as the case against them had been withdrawn. The other group had already been released when they appeared in court last month.

In another case, two Sebokeng youths, Mr Paulous Ngake, 21, and Johannes More, 21, who were facing a charge of arson, were released in the Vereeniging regional court today. The state had alleged that they burned down the house of Mr Sonny Mofokeng, a member of the Lekoa town council, on September 3 in Sone 3, Sebokeng. No evidence was led and they were not asked to plead. They were released on grounds that there was no evidence against them.

Boesak Replies to Law Minister's Charges
MB270757 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0600 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Church leader Alan Boesak has replied to Law and Order Minister Louis le Grange's allegations that he is a liar. At a protest meeting attended by more than 1,200 people in Cape Town last night, Boesak read affidavits from victims of alleged atrocities by police in the Vaal townships. Boesak, who is also a patron of the United Democratic Front [UDF], challenged Le Grange to order an inquiry into the deaths that resulted from the police action.

[Begin Boesak recording] All this the minister can ask from the people who have made these affidavits. All I want to ask him is, who is the liar? Who is the slanderer? Who is the one who is trying to cover up deeds like these? And as long as these things happen, and as long as we hear about it, it will be our responsibility to speak, it will be our responsibility to testify against the evil that is gripping this country [end recording]

[Beatty Hofmeyer] South African television reporters were asked to leave the hall and, when they refused, [words indisctinct] their cameras, preventing filming.

ANC Member Killed, Others Detained After Clash
MB261140 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] A trained ANC terrorist has been killed and two other men are being detained by police, after police clashed with four black men near Huhudi, near Vryburg on the Botswana border, today. The terrorist was killed when a hand grenade he intended to hurl at the police exploded in his hand.

Two members of the police force were slightly injured in the explosion. The chief of the security police, Major General Stan Schutte, says there is little doubt that the suspected terrorists infiltrated South Africa from Botswana. A statement issued in Pretoria by the department of Public Relations says the South African police were informed by the Bophuthatswana police that suspected terrorists had been spotted in the vicinity of Huhudi.

The police investigation led to the arrest of an ANC leader near Huhudi. Soon after that, two other black men were held for questioning. Possession was taken of Russian-made weapons, including hand grenades. After receiving further information, the police went to a house, where a terrorist tried to toss a hand grenade at them.

Buthelezi To Take Legal Action Against 6 Newspapers
MB270717 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0600 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Legal action is to be taken against six South African newspapers by KwaZulu leader, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi. Carmel Rickard reports from Durban:

[Rickard] Lawyers acting for the Zulu chief minister say that he is to sue the newspapers, following reports last weekend concerning his daughter, Princess Phumzile. They said a number of articles had appeared in the media after last Thursday's funeral of Chief Gatsha Buthelezi's mother Princess Magogo. Princess Phumzile did not attend her grandmother's funeral. The lawyers claim that these reports contained matter that was inaccurate or misleading, and in some cases that were completely false.

The six papers concerned are the *THE SUNDAY STAR*, the *SUNDAY EXPRESS*, the *SUNDAY TIMES*, the *SUNDAY TRIBUNE*, the *NATAL WITNESS*, and the *SOWETAN*. Princess Phumzile has lived in Swaziland intermittently for several years, and there is a row between the Swazis and the Zulus over her status in living with Swazi prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi.

SWAZILAND

PAC Delegation Arrives; To Meet Foreign Minister
MB261932 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1900 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] A 4-man delegation of the Pan African Congress [PAC] has apparently arrived in Swaziland for top-level talks. The [word indistinct] correspondent says the delegation is led by the leader of the PAC and is due to meet the Swazi foreign minister, among other top-level government officials.

PAC representatives were expelled from Swaziland in the early 1970's and sources say the visit is a sign that the PAC wants to regain a presence in Swaziland, now that 100 leading ANC members have been expelled because of a security agreement between Swaziland and South Africa.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Calls for Economic Reforms in Address
MB261232 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kaunda, says that the nation must fight and win the battle, using the economic reforms as a base. He says the economic crusade is a special onslaught on recession, unemployment, and other problems facing the country.

In his keynote address to business leaders and members of the Zambia Industrial and Commercial Association [ZINCOM] in Lusaka this morning, President Kaunda told the nation that the economic fight should involve both the private and public sector. While paying tribute to the business community for the role it has continued to play in building a strong economic base despite the adverse economic problems, the president said any problems that might be faced in increasing production could not be solved by more imports, but through import substitution.

Dr Kaunda said the economic crusade would involve reducing imports, and increasing the export potential of the country by breaking away from the traditional practice of exporting copper and other minerals, to exporting agricultural products and handicrafts.

He said the meeting had been convened so that the country's leadership could meet and discuss with the business community in a quiet manner the economic situation prevailing in the country. Party Secretary General Humphrey Mulemba, Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia, and Secretary for Defense and Security Grey Zulu were among party and government leaders at the meeting.

ZINCOM chairman, Vernon Mwaanga, in a vote of thanks, said the president has thrown a challenge to the business community with the launching of the economic crusade. Mr Mwaanga said such challenges bring optimism to the business community, and noted that the attendance of the country's leadership to hear their views was commendable.

Ministers Claim Zairian Soldiers in Zambian Territory
AB261258 Paris AFP in English 1020 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Lusaka, Nov 26 (AFP) — Two Zambian ministers of state have complained of harassment by Zairian soldiers who have illegally set up posts inside Zambian territory in the northern province. Minister of State for General Education and Culture Kennedy Shapande said the Zairians had illegal posts at Mutambala, 29 kms (18 miles) inside Zambian territory, and at Musasa, 19 kms (12 miles) inside Zambia, in Kaputa District.

Land wrangles between the two neighboring countries have flared on and off in this area since the 1930's. More recently there has been friction because Zambia has complained Zairians have formed bands for smuggling and armed robbery along the border.

Mr Shapande said he was traveling in Kaputa District with another minister of state in the same ministry Raphael Chota, on November 18 when soldiers deployed by Zaire at the two posts stopped them and ordered them to remove the Zambian flag from their official car. They were allowed through after their driver folded the flag, he added.

Mr Shapande said he had reported the matter to the relevant authorities in Lusaka, but Home Affairs Minister Frederick Comba and Defence Minister Clement Mwananshiku were quoted by the *TIMES OF ZAMBIA* today as saying they have not yet received any reports of the incident.

Special Zairian Envoy Brings Message to Kaunda
AB261731 Dakar PANA in English 1724 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Lusaka, 26 Nov (ZANA/PANA) — Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko has dispatched a special envoy to Lusaka with

a message for President Kaunda amid reports of worsening border tensions between the two countries. The envoy, Mr Lengema Dulia, who is secretary of state for international cooperation, arrived with the special message today but declined to comment on the latest reports of serious problems between Zambia and Zaire.

Mr Lengema could only confirm that he was a bearer of a message for President Kaunda, with whom he will hold discussions. He insisted, however, that relations between the two countries were "close." The envoy's arrival comes in the wake of reports that Zaire has deployed its troops on Zambian soil at Kaputa in the Northern Province where Zaire has been flying its flag for some time.

Two Zambian ministers traveling from Kaputa Boma last week were also reportedly ordered to remove the Zambian flag from their ministerial vehicle by the Zairean troops at a point where Zairean flag has been hoisted. The areas where Zaire has put up border posts are Mutambala, in Kaputa Central, 29 km inside Zambia, and at Mussasa, in Kaputa west, 19 km inside Zambia territory.

Last week a Zairean Air Force jet fighter was forced to land at Solwezi Airport by civil aviation and security personnel after overflying Zambian airspace without permission. The pilot, who has been only identified as Captain Mulomba, has since been detained at Solwezi, where his jet is being closely scrutinized by security forces.

The jet had been carrying bombs and other military equipment, including guns, when it made its emergency landing and the pilot later revealed that he had been in a convoy of Zairean fighter planes patrolling the border area in Shaba Province when he strayed into Zambia. A veil of official secrecy has since been imposed on the fighter plane saga as well as the latest incidents in Kaputa with virtually all government spokesmen declining to comment.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe, Banana Send Condolences on Murder of MP

MB261826 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] The president, Comrade Canaan Banana, and the prime minister [Robert Mugabe] have sent messages of condolence to the family of the late ZAPU member of parliament for Matabeleland North, Comrade Njini Mtuta, who was murdered by dissidents at his Nyamandlovu farm yesterday.

Comrade Banana condemned the murder of Comrade Mtuta, saying the forces of law and order will continue to hunt down and bring to justice those responsible for this barbaric act. In his message, the prime minister said Comrade Mtuta left behind an impressive record of a dedicated nationalist freedom fighter, constructive participant in government as deputy minister of mines, and a keen debater in parliament.

Police Look for MP's Killers; Msipa Comments

NC262015 Paris AFP in English 1956 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Harare, Nov 26 (AFP) — Zimbabwean police today sealed off the area in western Zimbabwe where opposition Member of Parliament Njini Mtuta was slain yesterday, in a bid to track down the politician's killers. Mr Mtuta, 60, a member of the national executive of the Zimbabwe African Peoples Union (ZAPU), was gunned down by three unidentified men in the Nyamandhlovu district of Matabeleland Province, some 30 kilometres (18 miles) north of the provincial capital of Bulawayo.

The killing came two weeks after a leading official of the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), Moven Ndlovu, was shot dead by unidentified men in the southern town of Beitbridge, sparking a series of violent clashes between ZAPU and ZANU members in which several people died.

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, ZANU's president, subsequently sacked two ZAPU Cabinet ministers and accused the opposition party of ordering Mr Ndlovu's murder in order to intimidate voters in forthcoming national elections.

Mr Mtuta was said to have been walking to a neighbor's farm with his son-in-law when they saw three armed men atop a hill some distance away. Mr Mtuta became separated from his companion as they ran toward the negihbor's farm and the son-in-law said he heard three gunshots. The opposition politician's body was later found with two bullet holes in his back.

ZAPU President Joshua Nkomo said in Bulawayo that he had no statement to make on the killing. "I have no information because all those I could have got it from have been taken by police for questioning," he said.

One of the men sacked by Mr Mugabe in retaliation for the Ndlovu killing, ZAPU Secretary-General Cephas Msipa, said today that the murder of Mr Mtuta showed that dissident crimes should be thoroughly investigated before ZAPU was blamed.

"There are people with guns who know that if they kill it will be blamed on ZAPU dissidents. And so they kill and get away with murder," Mr Msipa said. "If these are ZAPU dissidents, why would they pick on Mtuta, a member of our Central Committee, a close friend of Joshua Nkomo?", he asked.

In 1982, Mr Mtuta was sacked along with Mr Nkomo from the Cabinet, where he had held the post of deputy minister of mines and energy. His ouster from the government made it unlikely that pro-ZAPU dissidents might have killed him for being a "sell-out" to government, observers here said.

In July, Mr Mtuta said during a parliamentary debate that soldiers of the Zimbabwe National Army's North Korean-trained Fifth Brigade had killed several members of his family while pretending to be dissidents. But in another debate, he called for unity between the two parties. "ZANU and ZAPU, including minority parties, must sit together and bury their differences for the good of the nation," he said.